



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: 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

Winter Edition

January, 2018

Upcoming Events

February 22.,2018—
Winter luncheon at
Sean Patrick's. Infor-
mation on page 6

April 5-13, 2018—
Canyon Country

May, 2018—Spring
luncheon at Park Coun-
try Club. Date to be an-
nounced.

June 10-16, 2018—
Mackinac Island, Michi-
gan

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

(Information about any
of the upcoming trips
may be found on the
website.)

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to start by wishing each of you a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hopefully you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. It seems that this winter will be one to remember in terms of weather. I hope by the time that you read this, the temperature will have rebounded from the recent cold.

I hope that everyone who attended enjoyed the Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Thanks for the contributions to the fifty-fifty and table buckets. You were more than generous. I hope that you enjoyed the students from Hutch Tech who performed for us before and during the luncheon.

Thanks to all who went out to vote and defeat the resolution for a Constitutional Convention. If the resolution has passed, the meeting could have posed a threat to our pension and other benefits. The New York State Constitution provides a method to amend the document if needed. There was no need to spend millions of dollars on a special convention. The BRTA along with NYSTRA and NYSUT worked very hard to defeat this resolution. I know many of our members were involved in the successful effort.

The Western Zone is the host for the NYSTRA Annual Convention to be held at Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York. The convention will be held from October 17th to 19th this year. Members of BRTA serve on the Board of Directors of the Western Zone. They are already hard at work planning the convention. Western Zone is allotted a number of delegates to the meeting. Any member of NYSTRA can serve as a delegate. You can attend even if you are not a delegate. Information can be found in upcoming editions of "Western Current" (found on the Western Zone website at wzretiredteachers.org under "newsletters"). I would encourage you to join NYSRTA if you are not currently a member.

Finally, the Winter BRTA luncheon will be held at Sean Patrick's Restaurant on February 22, 2018. I hope to see many of you there.

—Thomas Giambra

Benefits Available to
BRTA Members

Long-term Care Insurance; BRTA Discounts on Long-term Care Insurance: 1-800-655-4899

Tonawanda, NY 716-694-4388

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 Janet Field 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

Cynthia A. Brown

Clare Chalmer

Thelma Hardman

Martha Hipkins

Michael Jankowski

Vasti C. Mann

Michael O'Brien

Phillip Roeder

Delores Adams Smart

Mara Zuffoletto Tollefson

Maxine Weissman

Josephine Wise

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).

Congratulations to the following who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary:

Len and Donna Neureuther

Frequently Requested Numbers

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

President: Charles Peszynski—631-3717

Membership: Linda Parada—875-3392

Luncheons: Russell Gervasi—839-5781

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

Newsletter: Elisa Harting—838-3708

Friendly Service: Josephine

Cross—636-3014

Health News: Exercise, Jan. 2018

I have recently been diagnosed with couch-potato-itis! This is of course a completely made up self-diagnosis. Nevertheless I believe I have this syndrome. I would much rather station myself in front of the TV or read a book on the couch or a comfortable recliner chair than exercise. In fact, I firmly believe that my body rebels against the idea of exercise by spontaneously pinching a nerve in my back or some other physical ailment so that I can joyfully (if painfully) refrain from my exercise routine. But exercise I do, as regularly as possible. I try for three days a week at the gym where I do both weight bearing and cardio and walk the dog daily for about 45 minutes at a brisk pace (between her stops to check her "pee mail").

I have experienced some of the benefits that come with this routine: Once diagnosed with osteopenia, my most recent bone scan showed that is gone and I know that even though I am approaching age 69 I have only lost ½ inch in height since I was young. I also notice I do not have sudden aches, pains or cramps in my muscles when I suddenly move and I am much more flexible as well as steady on my feet. I also know as I have written about before, that exercise helps relieve depression, as well as weight loss (unfortunately not me), control diabetes and high blood pressure and other benefits.

So if you too have couch-potato-itis, and do not participate in regular exercise, get off your duff! There is a wonderful program called "Silver Sneakers" that most of our health plans have that gives you FREE membership in many, many local gyms. No excuses! Go! Do!

—Be well. Jo Ann Meyer

DUNN TIRE DROPS BENEFIT

BRTA's negotiations with Dunn Tire for a discount program have failed. Dunn Tire's new program is based on creating partnerships with other local businesses in the Dunn Tire regional areas. Quoting their marketing manager's e-mail to BRTA, "Since the Buffalo Retired Teachers Association is not a business with employees, the organization does not fit into the scope of the program."

They go on to remind us that they have many discounts, offers and promotions throughout the year for customers. Therefore, the best BRTA can do for its members is to remind them to look for the Dunn Tire as in the paper. The marketing manager goes on to say that if you find tires at a lower price at a lower price at one of their competitors, you can bring that estimate to them and they will beat it.

Volunteers Needed for the Buffalo Museum of Science & Tiff Nature Preserve

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available at our two locations. These opportunities range in nature from working behind-the-scenes to engaging the public. Assist with leading tours and workshops, developing exhibits, leading nature hikes, or all of the above!

Contact the Buffalo Museum of Science at 716-896-5200 ext. 345 for more detailed information on volunteer opportunities.

BRTA YEAR IN REVIEW—2017

BRTA Contributes to Charities - Monies collected in December 2016 from the “Holiday Buckets” amounted to \$525 and were donated to Journey’s End Refuge Center.

Monies collected from the split club at the same luncheon in the amount of \$900 were given to St. Mary’s for the Deaf.

The Winter Luncheon split club collected \$217 for the Variety Club Telethon.

The spring luncheon split club collected money for the BRTA Scholarship fund in the amount of \$299.

The fall luncheon split club of \$650 was donated to Save The Children Fund for Hurricane Harvey relief.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED - So far this year we have awarded \$1500 scholarships to Davena Montcrieffe, Than Than Tway and Taha Faek. Thanks to Chairwoman Clarann Josef.

TRAVEL - Members have traveled this year to Panama, Montreal, the Rockies and Tuscany. 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 five golfers, both men and women, participated in a fun filled day of golf. Upon returning to the picnic shelter, the golfers shared a steak dinner and contributed to the prize raffle raising over \$395 for the scholarship fund.

Thanks go out to chairman Stephen Parada.

LUNCHEONS - Our four luncheons in 2017 were held at Park Country Club, Millennium Hotel, Salvatore’s Italian Gardens Restaurant and Sean Patrick’s.

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 (2017)

BRTA MEMBER WINS HUTCH TECH HOLIDAY RAFFLE

Jo Ann Meyer won the Hutch Tech raffle! At the BRTA Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's, the Hutch Tech band had a fantastic performance and also sold raffle tickets to raise money for their upcoming trip to play at Carnegie Hall. What a perfect venue to raise money for their trip! The raffle was for the Diamond Package--a stay in the jacuzzi suite at the Garden Palace, a voucher for dinner at Salvatore's and breakfast the following morning.

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, 2018.



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 22, 2018

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, 2018**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Elisa Harting (838-3708), 344 Parker Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216

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)