



# BRTA NEWSLETTER

[www.brta.biz](http://www.brta.biz)

[brtamembership@yahoo.com](mailto:brtamembership@yahoo.com)

President: Thomas Giambra

Recording Sec.: Stephen Parada

1st VP: Russell Gervasi

Corresponding Sec.: Elisa Harting

2nd VP: Renate Yuhnke

Membership Sec.: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Floyd Kruschke

Past Pres: Al Marabella

At Large: Josephine Cross, Arnold Harting, Michael Marszalek

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Clarann Josef,  
Cynthia Mehary, Theresa Pope, Sara Rodland  
Dolores Scanlon, Guy Schiavi, Marie Wu

Winter Edition

November, 2022

## Upcoming Events

### December 1, 2022-

Holiday Luncheon at Salvatore's Italian Gardens Information on page 6

**Winter Luncheon--**  
TBA

**Fall Luncheon--**TBA

**May 3-11, 2023--**  
Northern Italy trip

**September, 2023--**the  
Greek Islands trip



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather. Of course, as I write this, we just had four days of low temperatures, rain and wind. However, today is going to be a sunny day with the temperature rising.

It was nice to see so many of you at the fall luncheon at the Millennium Hotel. Thank you for your generous support of the split club. The money raised will go to the BRTA scholarship fund.

The Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held at Salvatore's on December 1, 2022. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. More information about the luncheon and the reservation form can be found at the end of this newsletter.

At the luncheon, we will be voting on changes to the BRTA bylaws. The bylaws have not been revised in many years. A committee was formed under the leadership of Russell Gervasi. Their job was to update and amend changes to the bylaws of this organization, I need to thank the members for their work on this project. The present bylaws mandated that BRTA be affiliated with NYSTRA or RENEY. After discussion among the Board members, it was decided that, as an organization, we should be able to disaffiliate with RENEY. Perhaps at some point in the future, BRTA might want to

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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](http://www.vitalsavings.com)

**Ballroom, Latin, Swing and Other Styles of Dance**—Tara Scime at 716-491-0186 or [TMSDance@yahoo.com](mailto:TMSDance@yahoo.com). Mention your BRTA membership and receive a discount.

**Faculty Rewards**—Discount magazine subscriptions. Go to [www.facultyrewards.com](http://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](http://www.westherrselect.com) or call your **Select Benefit Concierge (716) 202-3091**.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Joan Aspell Smith	Leon Henderson
Ann Braniecki	Audrey C. Hurd
Brenda Cole	Honi Ann Kurzeja
Nancy Davidson	Richard Leggio
Edward Harling	Carol Pasnik
Theresa Harris-Tigg	Irving Slater

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**

Willie and Willie Mae Walker--55th Anniversary  
Russell and Linda Gervasi--50th Anniversary  
Kenneth and Christine Watson--50th Anniversary

Frequently Requested Numbers

Website: [www.brta.biz](http://www.brta.biz) Email: [brtamembership@yahoo.com](mailto:brtamembership@yahoo.com)

**President:** Thomas Giambra—716-877-7796

**Membership:** Linda Parada--716-875-3392

**Luncheons:** Mary Agnes Marabella 716-635-9530 **Travel:** A. Marabella-716-635-9530, R. Gervasi 716-839-5781

**Newsletter:** Elisa Harting 716-838-3708

**Friendly Service:** Josephine Cross 716-636-3014

## AGING--HAVE YOU HAD THAT CONVERSATION?

As we age, many of us are now in need of walkers, rollators, wheelchairs or canes, as well as assistance in taking care of daily activities around our homes. At each BRTA luncheon, we see more of our colleagues using one or more of the above to assist with walking or maneuvering in order to attend these functions. Aging causes many changes in our bodies which may affect our vision, our balance, our hearing, as well as many other physical functions.

At a recent BRTA luncheon, I sat with the daughter of a former colleague of mine. She told me that she was here to assist her Mom, since she has Alzheimer's. This daughter continued to tell me about her Mother's concerns since her Mom had recently lost her Dad. Now her mother was alone and really needed assistance from others besides family members. We see and hear so many commercials about home health care, Senior Living apartments, and other facilities available to all who are in need.

We all recently received the New York State newsletter which included an excellent article about what to do and who to contact in case of death or becoming critically ill, or incapacitated. The article emphasized the need to keep this article with other important papers for caregivers, adult children, dependents, and beneficiaries.

I would also suggest that you make copies of this article to give to each of the persons involved to be sure that all know what to do. So have you had this conversation with family members? Now is the time to have a conversation about your mental health, incontinence, falls, your memory, and the need for physical activity? It is also very important to have this conversation with family members about your wishes in case of death. We have all retired after many years in the educational realm and would like to be sure that our wishes are known and followed. We have all heard horror stories about something happening and no one knows what to do, where the important papers are (if there are any) and the shock of not knowing how to handle the situation. It is, no doubt, a difficult situation but it is one we must face. Think about having that conversation today.

Sources: Buffalo Healthy Living, September, 2022, p.5

NYS Teachers Retirement System (NYSTRS) Newsletter, September, 2022, pp. 4,5

---Cynthia Mehary

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

affiliate with another organization. The suggested changes should allow BRTA to decide on affiliation. Other suggestions update the bylaws.

Remember that November is the month in which you can make changes to your health care provider. By the time you have received this newsletter, the BPS Benefits Office should have notified you. Please make sure that you carefully review the plan you are considering.

I hope that everyone who went on the trip to Nashville had a good time. I need to thank Al Marabella and Russ Gervasi for their organizing the trip. Other travel news is forthcoming.

We will be setting the dates for the winter and fall luncheons at the November Board meeting. We will also be discussing locations for them.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Holiday Luncheon. It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. Until then, stay well and take care,

---Tom Giambra

## **BOARD PROPOSES BYLAWS CHANGES**

While reviewing the bylaws of the Buffalo Retired Teachers Association, it was noted that changes to update the Bylaws were needed. It is required that the membership be notified of the changes prior to a required vote which will be taken at the December 1 meeting. Since the bylaws had not been updated since 2008, a committee was formed to review and update them. The proposed changes are listed below and are indicated by boldface type :

### **BUFFALO RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION**

#### Article I--Name

The name of this Association shall be the Buffalo Retired Teachers' Association, hereafter referred to as "the Association."

#### Article II--Purpose

The purposes of this Association shall be:

**(remove old A and reletter B-J as A-H)**

B. **(A)** To help members maintain identity with the teaching profession and to further the cause of education.

C. **(B)** To provide opportunities for meaningful contact with friends and colleagues from their active teaching years.

D. **(C)** To gather and disseminate information of value to members

E. **(D)** To provide organizational framework through which members can continue a life of service to their colleagues, their profession and their communities

F. **(E)** To encourage members to continue their talents and experience in the decision making process within their communities

G. **(F)** To present retired educators as independent and contributing members of their communities

H. **(G)** To familiarize retired and active educators with the benefits of membership in BRTA

I. **(H)** To assist active educators in preparing for retirement (continued on next page)

## **BY LAWS CHANGES (continued)**

### Article III--Governance

This Association shall be governed by its Bylaws and Constitution.

### Article IV--Affiliation

**This Association shall be independent.** It maintains the option of affiliation with other organization(s) if the Board so desires and approves by an affirmative vote.

### Article VII--Officers

#### **Add the following duties to the descriptions of officers:**

C. Second Vice-President 4. Shall act as Historian

### Article XIII--Committees

3. Friendly Service-- add to a. by sending 90th birthday cards, sympathy cards, get well cards and 50th anniversary cards, if notified

4. Health Care--b. provide website addresses and phone numbers of Health and Well Being organizations to our members

5. Newsletter--c. the Chair will submit a copy of the newsletter to the website manager

8. Scholarship--a. Solicit applications from graduating seniors from the Buffalo Public Schools for an Association scholarship

B. award up to three (3) scholarships each June.

Respectfully submitted by the Bylaws Committee, Russell Gervasi, chairperson

## **TRAVEL NEWS**

After what seemed like an endless interval, BRTA is back to seeing the world! Those that were able to travel to Nashville has on outstanding time. The hotel had a bar--what more could one ask for? The trip to San Antonio on December 1-5 is still available. There's nothing like the holiday season there.

Trips to Northern Italy and the Greek Isles are included in the mailing. If you are interested, both should be booked by December 4, 2022 to take advantage of savings. Unlike other companies, Collette will refund your cost if you cancel up to one day before leaving, if you take travel insurance. No explanation needed.

Those who went to Nashville will have a credit to spend on a future trip. All who sign up will travel, even if you might be paired with another group.

Call Al Marabella at 716-635-9530 for applications.

Cordially Invites Members & Guests to attend its

*BRTA Holiday Luncheon*

To be held at

**Salvatore's Italian Gardens**

6461 Transit Road

Depew, NY

716-683-7990

**Thursday, December 1, 2022**

Social Hour: 11:15 AM Complimentary Bruschetta Bar & Cash Bar

Luncheon: 12:15 PM Choice of:

1. Beef Prime Rib w/ au jus
2. Fresh Salmon served with lemon herb sauce
3. Chicken Francais with lemon sauce
4. Vegetarian Napoleon

Luncheon includes Caesar Salad, Vegetable, Cheesecake with Raspberry  
Sauce and Beverage

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

Payment: **Due by Wednesday, November 23rd**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Mary Agnes Marabella (716-635-9530)  
2 Steinway Court  
Williamsville, NY 14221

**No refunds can be given after the 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**