



BRTA NEWSLETTER

www.brta.biz

brtamembership@yahoo.com

President: Thomas Giambra

Recording Sec.: Marie Wu

1st VP: Stephen Parada

Corresponding Sec.: Elisa Harting

2nd VP: Renate Yuhnke

Membership Sec.: Linda Parada

Treasurer: Floyd Kruschke

Past Pres.: Charles Pesczynski, Al Marabella

At Large: Josephine Cross, Russell Gervasi, Arnold Harting

Board Members: Carolyn Cardarella, Clarann Josef, Michael Marszalek,
Cynthia Mehary, Suzanne Nyitrai, Theresa Pope,
Peter Riester, Dolores Scanlon, Guy Schiavi

Winter Edition

January, 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 20, 2020—Winter Luncheon at Sean Patrick's. Information on page 4

Feb. 26-Mar. 9, 2020—Treasures of Egypt

April 25, 2020—Biltmore Estates, Asheville, NC—bus tour

May 11, 2020—Ireland

May 21, 2020—Spring Luncheon at Park Country Club

June 9, 2020—Annual Don Guerra Golf Tournament

September 2, 2020—Fall Luncheon at the Millennium Hotel

Sept. 12, 2020—Portugal

Oct. 18, 2020—Maine—bus tour

December, 2020—Holiday luncheon at Salvatore's

President's Message

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020. My apologies to Bing Crosby, but I really enjoyed the green Christmas we had this year.

It was so nice that so many of you were at the BRTA Holiday Luncheon this year. We had over 280 reservations for the luncheon. Many thanks for the musical entertainment provided by the South Park band and select choir under the direction of Band Director Ellen Pieroni and Chorale Director Brett Ransom. It is always nice to have students from the Buffalo Public Schools perform at our luncheon.

Thank you so much for your generosity in buying split club tickets and for the money you put in the buckets on the table. The money raised by your donations went to the Teacher's Desk and Compass House of Buffalo.

When Al Marabella and I went around to the tables to see if you were enjoying the luncheon, we did get some complaints, especially about the chicken entrée. We do take those comments seriously. Al and I met with members of the catering staff right after the luncheon and discussed these concerns with them. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you are unhappy with something at one of our luncheons.

As I mentioned at the luncheon, the BTF plans to file a grievance for those retirees who were switched from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield to Independent Health. Many people who had joined the BC/BS plan liked it. It is another example of the Board making a unilateral decision without negotiating with the BTF. As you know, a grievance like this can take several years to be resolved.

The arbitration date for the grievance regarding the Board placing retired teachers on Medicare Part D for prescription drugs has not yet been set. This change has caused problems for a number of our members. That change was also not negotiated with the BTF. It seems to be a violation of the BTF Contract and state law.

You should have received from the Benefits Office a Summary of Benefits and Coverage for your current health plan. The cover letter mentioned that the Board is providing a new service called Telemedicine. I did not see additional information about this program in my packet from the Benefits Office. However, the program is hosted by Doctors on Demand. I would guess you could call the Benefits Office for more details.

The Winter Luncheon this year will be at Sean Patrick's on February 20, 2020. I hope to see many of you there. Until then take care.

—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

MARY ANN BRUNO

ELIZABETH J. COOKE

JUDITH CLARKE

PATRICIA CURTIN

CHRISTINE MARICLE

FRANCIS X. SCHWAB

PAUL A. STEPHAN

CATHERINE TORREY

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 on their 50th
wedding anniversary:**

David and Virginia Kenny

Michael and LaDonna Duszynski

Frequently Requested Numbers

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

President: Thomas Giambra—877-7796

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

TRAVEL UPDATE

Greetings!

The holidays have passed but may not be over. Hope all had a good experience. The weather certainly cooperated in Western New York!

Here is a summary of trips BRTA is planning for this year and the year to come. Any suggestions are always welcome.

February 26, 2020 To Egypt—available but limited

April 25, 2020 To Biltmore Estates, Asheville, NC—Bus tour—Call me
ASAP if interested—635-9530

May 11, 2020 To Ireland—early booking rate has passed

September 12, 2020 To Portugal—early booking is available

October 18, 2020 To Maine—motor coach transportation

In 2021, we have a trip to the French Riviera, possibly Israel in February and Germany in May and possibly Northern Italy and the Greek Isles.

By requesting early and taking out travel insurance, the cost of the trips are totally refundable up to the day of departure. Also, if a traveler must go back during the trip, no additional charges are accrued. This can be as much as \$10,000 when changing air tickets and needing First Class accommodation.

To see something in real time is not the same as seeing a picture—for example, glaciers. And these days, when they're gone, they're gone!

Let me know of your interests.

---Al Marabella (716-635-9530)

BRTA NEEDS YOUR HELP

BRTA is looking for a volunteer to help with our website. The website is established (brta.biz) and the work required is minimal.

Responsibilities are few. The webmaster will have to post newsletters and other information on the appropriate pages four times a year, remove outdated information and post pictures after each of the lunches. You would be working with the corresponding secretary and the public relations chairperson.

If you are interested, or need more information, please call Elisa Harting at 838-3708.

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 20, 2020

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, 2020**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

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

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(s) on separate sheet)