



# 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,  
Ann Peters, Theresa Pope, Sara Rodland,  
Dolores Scanlon, Guy Schiavi

Winter Edition

January, 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Feb. 29, 2024**--Winter Luncheon at Sean Patrick's. Info on page 4.

**April 15, 2024**--applications for Scholarships due. Info on [www.brta.biz](http://www.brta.biz)

**May, 2024**--Spring Luncheon at the Columns. Info in April newsletter.

**September, 2024**--annual meeting and election of officers. Info in August newsletter

**December, 2024**--Holiday Meeting and Luncheon at Salvatore's. Info in November newsletter

## President's Message

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. The weather was a welcome improvement over last year. I do not know about you, but I was happy to have a green Christmas.

It was nice to see so many of you at the Holiday Luncheon. I hope that all of you enjoyed the luncheon and the chance to see old friends. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the two charities that BRTA was raising money for at the luncheon. I think that Salvatore's did a good job in terms of food and service. I need to thank all of the board members who helped in running the luncheon.

The next luncheon will be held at Sean Patrick's on February 29th. The reservation form can be found in the newsletter. Please be aware of the reservation deadline date. I hope that the weather is better for the event than last year. Last year, part of the area was having an ice storm.

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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**

Carolyn Allen

Suzanne Lach

Mary Jo Conrad

Marian Lazickas

Mary Ann DePasquale

Joan Mangan

Norma Fletcher

Suzanne McIner-

ney

Norman J, Gleason

Ronald Meer

Margaret Heiss

Ophelia Nicolas

Nancy Jean Kibler

James Singletary

Marilyn Foote Kragbe

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-

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following on their**

**wedding anniversary:**

**William and Mary Wilde--50th**

**Andrew and Donna Sciandra--50th**

**Karl and Linda Kovacs--55th**

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

**Travel:** Russ Gervasi—716-839-5781

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

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

## BRTA Remembers... **OPHELIA NICOLAS**

Many of you are aware of the passing of Ophelia Nicolas on Christmas Day. She was a long time member of the BRTA Board. She had an outstanding 34 year career as a teacher and administrator in the Buffalo Public Schools. She worked with downtown administrators, including the superintendent, to develop educational policies and was among the first principals to introduce teacher aides. Mrs. Nicolas was also active in her church and community affairs. She also was a vice chairman of Red Cross youth programs. In retirement, she worked with BRTA. Ophelia was our luncheon chairperson. It was a privilege and a pleasure to work with her.

--Thomas Giambra /Elisa Harting

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

Hopefully, everyone has made payment to the BPS for health insurance. The deadline for the first payment was January 15, 2024. You can pay quarterly or annually. There are no more coupons to send in your payment.

I have become aware that there have been problems with Highmark. The transition to this company has not gone smoothly. If you are having a problem, try to solve it by contacting the company. If this does not work, you can contact the Benefits office of the BPS. You can also contact the BTF. Remember our insurance coverage is protected in the BTF Contract with the Board.

I know that all of you are aware that this year, we have a national election. I urge everyone to stay informed and, of course, vote in the primaries and the November election. BRTA does not make endorsements or get involved in the election.

I hope to see many of you at the next luncheon. Until then, stay well and take care.

---Thomas Giambra, President

**Buffalo Retired Teachers Association**

Cordially Invites Members and 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 29, 2024**

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

Luncheon: 12:15 PM Choice of:

- 1. NY Strip Steak
- 2. Chicken Francaise (chicken with a light lemon sauce)
- 3. Char-grilled Salmon with dill sauce
- 4. Vegetable Lasagna

Luncheon includes Chef Salad, Vegetable, Potato, Rolls and Butter, Dessert and Coffee or Tea

Cost: \$40.00 for Members - \$45.00 for Non-member Guests

(BRTA subsidizes cost for members)

Payment: **Due by Tuesday, February 15, 2024**

Payable to: Buffalo Retired Teachers Association

Mail to: Elisa Harting, 344 Parker Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 (716-838-3708)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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)**