



*Volume 26, Issue 2
Fall 2017*

BCBSM Retirees Newsletter

Officers

President - Kathy Elston
Vice-president - Annette Foster
Treasurer - Joyce Obenhoff
Secretary - Adrienne Starling
Immediate Past President - John McCrary

Committee Chairpersons

Finance - Richard Dow
Fundraising - Beleta Williams
Internet - Imogene King-Dugan
Membership Liaison - Beleta Williams
Operations - Betty Zwolak
Planning - John Flint and Ray Newak
Social - Annette Foster
Senior Advisory Committee – Rod Meyer

Election of Officers, Craft Show and More at Membership Meeting

The 35th Annual Membership Meeting took place October 19 at the Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia.

Kathy Elston kicked off the meeting with the President's Report. She noted that despite the turmoil in politics, business and the weather in 2017, Association members enjoyed many excellent events judged by the positive feedback she has received.

Kathy also recognized the officers and committee chairpersons -- all volunteers -- who make each event a success. She encouraged members to become involved with the association as planning and coordinating events is a labor-intensive task. "The planning for 2018 is well under way and it's looking like another year of both challenges and fun," she reported.

Following the introduction of officers, committee chairpersons, and those past presidents who were in attendance, Joyce Obenhoff gave the Treasurer's Report and Betty Zwolak conducted the election of officers for 2018.

As there were no nominations from the floor, the slate of officers presented by the Board was elected. They are:

- Ray Newak, president
- Annette Foster, vice president
- Joyce Obenhoff, treasurer
- Adrienne Starling, secretary
- Kathy Elston, immediate past president

In recognition of her three-year term of service as president of the Association, Ray Newak thanked Kathy and presented her with the traditional plaque and gavel. Noting all that she contributes to a variety of organizations Ray said, "Kathy is such a community-minded person and a great asset to our Association."

Ray also recognized John Flint who has served on the Board for 25 years. During that time he has served as president and in more recent years was Planning Committee co-chair. John said that he plans to continue attending meetings as long as he is able.

New at this year's luncheon, members were invited to participate in a craft show of handmade items. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase a variety of crafts before and after the meeting. Our thanks to the following crafters:

Linda Burton, unique greeting cards/gift bags; Florence Coin and Evelyn Beck, jewelry/knotted headbands; Sandy Crossley, jewelry/crocheted items; Susan Lettner, wreaths; Kathy Elston, jewelry; Kathy Seibert, decorative fall baskets; and Phyllis Hampton, Christmas tree ornaments.

As always, members enjoyed a tasty lunch, served family style, that included top round of beef, oven roasted chicken, potatoes, green beans, salad, Italian bread and ice cream for dessert. The meeting ended with the 50/50 raffle. The winners were Elaine Schoder, \$100; Paul Seldenwright, \$60; and Rosemary Nixon, \$35. A total of \$195 went toward charity.



Officers for 2018, from left to right, Annette Foster, Ray Newak, Joyce Obenhoff and Adrienne Starling.



Kathy Seibert with her offerings at the craft show.



Ray Newak thanks Kathy for her service as Retiree Association president.



Ray Newak with John Flint, who was commended for 25 years of service to the Association.

Bylaw Changes

Changes to two of the Association bylaws were proposed and attendees were asked to vote on the revisions. The changes were approved.

The bylaw on membership and eligibility was amended and now reads as follows:

Any former employee who is 50 years or older and has at least five years of service is eligible to belong. The associate member designation will be used for surviving spouses. Surviving spouses may participate in activities with no voting privileges.

The Board proposed updating the bylaw regarding the voting process as follows:

Provide notification of proposed changes 30 days prior to the annual meeting through e-mail for those members electing that option and through regular mail for those members who have chosen and paid to have the Association communicate using that method. The bylaw changes would continue to be presented at the annual meeting, however the approval process would eliminate the quorum requirement because there is not a way to achieve a quorum with more than 3,000 members and only a few hundred or less attending the annual meeting. The Board proposed to amend the bylaws to indicate approval of a bylaw change by a majority vote (51 percent) of the members attending the annual meeting. The vote will be conducted by a show of hands after discussion.

Members Enjoyed 2017 Summer and Fall events

Forty-seven Blues retirees and their guests enjoyed an all-day trip to **Saugatuck**, the "art coast of Michigan," on June 27. The tour included round-trip transportation by bus to Saugatuck, a dune buggy ride, a ride along the Kalamazoo River on board the Star of Saugatuck and shopping, shopping, shopping. Art galleries and studios were visited with a final stop at a local drugstore that has been serving hand-creamed sodas and malted shakes for more than 80 years.

On Friday, July 28, 24 **Detroit Tigers** fans from the Association and their guests cheered for the home team at Comerica Park from their seats just beyond first base. The ticket price included hot dog, potato chips and pop. Despite the fan enthusiasm the Tigers lost to the Houston Astros by one run (six to five). Go Tigers! Go BCBSM retirees!

The **Holocaust Memorial Center**, located in Farmington Hills, hosted 55 BCBSM retirees and their guests on the morning of August 24. The center -- whose mission "is to engage, to educate and to empower by remembering the Holocaust" -- is one of the largest of its kind in the country. It offers exhibits relating to the history surrounding the Holocaust and memorializes those who

suffered. After a guided tour, attendees gathered for lunch at the Brass Pointe restaurant nearby.

The 26th annual **Bill Burke Memorial Golf Outing** was held on Friday, September 8, at the Riverbank Golf Club in South Lyon. Forty-eight golfers enjoyed a continental breakfast prior to tee time. In addition, a full buffet dinner that included BBQ ribs and baked chicken was enjoyed by all after the day of golfing. There were prizes for all participants with the winning teams given first choice. The three winning teams were Sue Slottke, Jean Tymczak, Alice Innes and Dave Barthel; Diana Glaab, Mary Weston, Judy McChester and Dan Blazo; and James Kujawa, Jack Dougherty, Ron Price and Tom Coshell.

On November 2, 84 BCBSM retirees and their guests enjoyed a seven-course Russian High Tea luncheon at the **Royal Eagle Restaurant** on the grounds of St. Sabbas the Sanctified Orthodox Monastery in Harper Woods. The outing included a tour of the church and a stop at the gift shop where Russian collectibles could be purchased. The church, shop and restaurant are surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens with elegant fountains and fine mosaics.

May they rest in peace...

Richard A. Hanschu
May 3, 2017

William G. Louwers
August 10, 2017

Carol Cook
August 27, 2017

Thomas S. Skiba
October 25, 2017

James F. Dunleavy
November 18, 2017

Welcome New Members

David F. Arbogast
Glory A. Banez
Jacqueline R. Barker
Patricia L. Behmlander
Branko Bojicic
Luther A. Bradley
Etta L. Buckhahn
Susan M. Bussey
Annie D. Callaway
John R. Carbott
Kathryn M. Carter
Anne Marie Cartier
Judith L. Crutcher
Maryann Cutlip
Karen J. Davis
Barbara G Derian
Linda L. Dettar
Tynia D. Dixon
Carla J. Ervin
Udean Forbes-Payton
Dorothy M. Ford
Rebecca A. Gauthier
Joseph G. Gavulic

Janeen A. Geisenhaver
Grace E. Ginter
Jayne E. Giordano
Susan M. Gmazel
Deborah E. Gooch
Betty A. Griffin
Diane M. Haman
Linda S. Hatfield
Suzan Heard
Jacqueline A. Heard-Watson
James A. Herd
Harvey J. Hill
Glenda L. Hoagland
Jerilynn Hunley
Helen F. Huseltine
Judith A. Isakson
Karen E. Johnson
Donita A. Kellam
Kimberly K Kemp
David R. King
Kay A. Kollman
Carolyn A. Labute
Carla C. Laethem

Marcia A. Laleman
Eloise Lamar
Leila M. Lapid
Cheryl B. Lewis
Pei-Ying Lin
Patricia Marxen
Sharon L. Mc Murdo
Theodore G. Mccoy
Francine D. Miller
Joya G. Mills
Susan S. Mulvihill
Patricia A. Murray
Ruby E. Naranjo
Roy E. Nesler
Deborah R. Nowlin-Swartz
Sherry L. Ossy
Karen M. Pennell
Ray Phenicie
Allen J. Pienkowski
Sherree L. Rentola
Carol M. Riddle
Sharon Rushman
Evelyn Sahn

Tammy D. Saulsby
Toni L. Schafer
Jackie L. Schmidt
Lonnie S. Schneider
Geraldine L. Searight
Karen A. Sedik
Lenora J. Shorter
Daniel D. Skrzypek
Marilyn J. Smith
Pamela A. Stevens
Deborah A. Strucienski
Ann C. Suminski
Karen Shaw Suzor
Julie A. Thayer
Pamela L. Thompson
Tonya L. Toole
Jean E. Tymczak
Penny J. Wall
Linda K. Walton
Alice D. Willis
Onita Wilson
William G. Wilson
Darlene Wright

Great Events Coming in 2018

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, "An American in Paris" concert, February 16

Ford Rouge Factory Tour, Dearborn, February 21

Annual Florida Luncheon, The Villages, March 2

Schoolcraft College Dinner Theatre, Livonia, March 24

This newsletter is published by and for members of the BCBSM Retiree Association.

Be sure to check our website at miretireeassoc.com for information about upcoming events and photos of past events. We also publish an E-mail Directory, which is a voluntary listing of members who wish to share their e-mail address with fellow retirees. To add your e-mail address to the Directory, make a correction or remove your name from the list send your request to information@miretireeassoc.com.

The BCBSM Retiree Association is an organization of former employees of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan that is not otherwise affiliated with the company.