



*Volume 27, Issue 1
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BCBSM Retirees Newsletter

Spring dinner features Blues authors

The BCBSM Retiree Association Spring Dinner was held on Thursday, May 24, at the Regency Manor and Banquet Center in Southfield. Everyone was enjoying the warm weather and sunny skies that day, as well as meeting up with friends and acquaintances.

Ray Newak, president, welcomed guests and Susan Lettner, chair of the Planning Committee, gave a rundown of upcoming events. Dinner was served buffet style and included boneless chicken breast with creamy zip sauce, beef short ribs au jus along with salad, vegetables and red skin potatoes.

Blues retiree Debra Pawlak was our speaker before dinner. Some members may remember Debra from a spring luncheon some years ago when she gave a talk about a previous book she wrote, "Bringing Up Oscar, the Men and Women Who Founded the Academy."

Debra's new book, written with co-author Cheryl Bartlam du Bois, is "Soldier, Spy, Heroine." It's a novel based on a true Civil War story with a Michigan angle.

Debra gave an overview of the exciting tale of Sarah Emma Edmonds, a feisty young woman who set out into the world disguised as boy. Born in New Brunswick, Canada, she later settled in Flint, Michigan, where she eventually joined the Second Michigan Voluntary Infantry and became a true Civil War hero.

Following dinner we heard from Bill Dunphy who worked for Blue Cross during the 1980's and had spent a decade in the ministry. The title of his book is "Voices from the Word." It consists of short stories based on the Bible written in common, everyday

language to help readers feel what people in the stories were really like.

Two of the titles in his book, for example, are: "I Always Thought I Was Special," a story about Ishmael; and "It's Tough Being a Servant Girl," a conversation between Miriam and Peter. At the meeting, Bill read his take on the story of the Good Samaritan.

The meeting closed with drawings for the Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle and table centerpieces. The 50/50 winners were Margery Coleman (\$60), Janet Crain (\$30) and Rod Meyer (\$19). Special thanks to Kathy Elston and Eleanor Dow for donating their designer jewelry for auction and Kay Jones for assisting with the 50/50 raffle.

Note: Since this was the first time the spring gathering was held in the evening Association President Ray Newak took a poll to see how people felt about the change. The consensus was that a luncheon is preferred.



Debra Pawlak had copies of her book available for sale



Bill Dunphy tells the story of the Good Samaritan



From left to right, Carrie Irvine and Noel Cartier buying auction tickets with Beleta Williams, chair of the Fundraising Committee

Officers

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

Committee Chairpersons

Finance - Richard Dow
Fundraising - Beleta Williams
Internet - Imogene King-Dugan
Membership Liaison - Beleta Williams
Operations - John McCrary
Planning - Susan Lettner
Social - Annette Foster
Senior Advisory Committee - Rod Meyer

2017 Charity Donations

In 2017 Association members donated \$1,633 to charity through contributions to our 50/50 raffles, Chinese auctions and support of the Bowl-a-Rama charity event. Your donations were sent to the Salvation Army, Gleaners Food Bank, Forgotten Harvest, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Alzheimer's Association and Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. Thank you!

Association members step out for winter, spring events

We've enjoyed many fun activities since our last report on Retiree Association events. The Retiree Association Board and Committees have been especially busy over the past months planning more events than ever for 2018 to give everyone a variety of activities to choose from.

The Association held its **35th Annual Holiday Celebration** on December 5, 2017. One-hundred-fifty-nine retirees and their guests enjoyed lunch at the Gazebo in Warren. The menu included braised beef, baked chicken and tilapia with apple dumplings for dessert. DJ Rick Love provided the music.

Our 2018 events kicked off on February 16 when Association members and guests enjoyed the music of Darius Milhaud, George Gershwin and Francis Poulenc at Orchestra Hall. The program was part of the **Detroit Symphony Orchestra's** "French Festival." While concertgoers were familiar with Gershwin's "An American in Paris" many had never heard Milhaud's "A Frenchman in New York." The Friday morning concert included coffee and donuts served before the performance.

On February 22, 24 Blues retirees and their guests toured the **Ford Rouge Factory** in Dearborn. There they witnessed firsthand the complex web of equipment, robotics, parts delivery and skilled workers who altogether build one truck per minute at full line speeds. In addition, guests were treated to a look at the trim lines, as well as the final testing.

The **29th Annual Florida Luncheon** was held on March 7 at the Lake Sumter Landing Red Sauce Restaurant in The Villages. Eleven snowbirds enjoyed the afternoon get together. Lunch consisted of simple Italian fare, the restaurant's specialty. A 50/50 raffle was held and door prizes awarded.

Thirty BCBSM retirees and their guests attended Livonia's **Schoolcraft College Theater** on March 24 where they enjoyed the play, 'Eleemosynary.' Written by Lee Blessing, it tells the story of three generations of women and their complex

relationships with each other. Dinner, consisting of salad and beef ravioli, was also served.

Bowl-a-Rama, our annual charity event, took place on April 21 at Country Lanes of Farmington. A small but enthusiastic group had a good time. The high scorer winners were Lela Thomas (198 in the first game and 258 in the second game) and Eleanor Christie with a score of 228 in the third game.

Upcoming events in 2018

July 20 -- DETROIT TIGERS GAME, Detroit
It's the Tigers vs. the Boston Red Sox at Comerica Park. The evening game includes fireworks.

July 24 -- AMISH COUNTRY DAY TRIP, St. Joseph County
A day trip to a Michigan Amish community. Meet residents, visit Amish businesses and enjoy a delicious Amish lunch.

August 21 -- FIRELANDS REGION WINE-TASTING DAY TRIP, Ohio
Visit three wineries on the Lake Erie Shores and Islands Wine Trail located between Toledo and Cleveland.

September 7 -- ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, South Lyon
This year's outing is at the Riverbank Golf Club

September 21 -- SANDERS-MORLEY CHOCOLATE FACTORY TOUR, Clinton Township
Visit the factory and enjoy lunch at the Aspen Restaurant.

October 17 -- ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, Livonia
The annual meeting and luncheon takes place at Burton Manor.

November 9 -- UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TOUR, Detroit
The First Congregational Church of Detroit takes you on the Underground Railroad Living Museum Flight to Freedom Tour. Tour includes lunch at the church.

December 4 -- HOLIDAY PARTY, Grosse Pointe
Join us for our annual holiday festivities at the Detroit Country Club. It is a luncheon this year.

Welcome New Members

Kathryn Adkins
Elizabeth Armbruster
Kevin Aquinto
Richard Baharozian
Marilyn Baranda
Janice Barker
Darlene Beard
Lynn Biliunas
Leah Blinstrub
Mary Bogan
Patricia Broady
Karen Brower
Johnnie Brown
Kezzia Brundige
Russell Cameron
Elizabeth Carter
Shari Cassel
Pamela Cazan
Pamela Chapman
Cher Chen
Thomas Clark
Clarinda Coleman
Lon Cripps
Edwin David, Jr
Benjamin Dawson
Michael Dowding
Jocelyn Edwards
Terrence Elkins
Sheryl Farr

Patricia Ferra
Lucetta Franco
Donald Gentner
Althea Gray
Mary Grosscup
Peggy Gunns
Dorothy Hall
Norman Hamady
Sheri Harris
Peggy Heinlein
Janice Hess
Lois Holmes
Rick Holt
Alan Hunsanger
Karen Hutchcraft
Alice Innes
Beverly Jerdine
Deepak Jhaveri
Pamela Kallio
Gary Kasprzyk
Sara King
David Kochis
Eric Kropfreiter
Honey Lal
Beverly Lamb-Stovall
Wanda Latham
Ruth Lumetta
Anthony Martin
Cheryl Martin

Gloria Martin
Marietta Martinez
John McIntosh
Linda McMurray
Jean Medlen
Thomas Mihalov
Cathy Miron
Dawn Moran
Michael Namee
Rebecca Napier
Deborah Nelson
Roberta Oconnor
Linda Oryczcak
Laila Patterson
Karen Perna
Patricia Powell
Barbara Quenneville
Vanilla Rainey
Judy Rauch
Lois Rembowicz
Susan Remisiewicz
Dennis Roegner
Dorothy Royster
Jeffrey Rumley
Joan Schmid
Daniel Secrest
Janet Shermer
Jayne Sims
John Sittig

Patricia Slisinger
Patricia Smith
Susan Smith
Kenneth Stewart
Karen Stubbs
Julinda Tarver
Ursula Thirkield
Richard Thompson
Janet Thulin
Victor Tong
Jeffrey Townsend
Marcia Travis
Diane Tudball
Bonnie Walker
Laura Walker
Marilyn Walker
Mary Wessner
Michael Westbrook
William Whiteley
Michelle Whitfield
Vivian Williams
Joyce Wilson
Dale Wisner
Diane Wolfenden
Cynthia Wylie
Pamela Yanis
Ann Zapalski
Huijun Zhuang

May They Rest In Peace

Jerry Kelly
January 15, 2018

Mary Hicks
February 13, 2018

Patricia Flanagan
March 26, 2018

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 Association news. We also publish an E-mail Directory, 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.