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.
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.
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.
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. Laubte  
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 Ruschman  
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.