



BCBSM Retirees Newsletter

*Produced for and by members of the
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Retiree Association*

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It was all aboard for fun on the *Huron Lady II*

Rain was forecast for June 22 but luckily the weatherman missed the mark. Instead Retiree Association members were greeted with beautiful, sunny skies for a cruise on the *Huron Lady II*.

Two Bianco tour buses, with pickups in Southfield and Warren, provided transportation to Port Huron where the *Huron Lady II* is docked. The first stop was the historic Thomas Edison Inn where lunch was served "in the gracious splendor of a bygone era." The Inn is located on the water at the base of the Blue Water International Bridges in Port Huron.

After lunch, participants were bused to the dock to board the *Huron Lady II*.

"Needless to say, with 90 of us, we pretty well took over the ship," said Betty Zwolak. "Captain John Rigney was the ship's captain and narrator of the tour. He took the time to answer any and all questions as well as give the 'captain's salute' to oncoming ships with one long and two short pulls on the ship's whistle."

The two-and-a-half-hour cruise took retirees up the St. Clair River into Lake Huron and then back to Port Huron.

Numerous freighters and pleasure craft were spotted along the way, and even replicas of the Nina and the Pinta, tall ships that began touring the U.S. in 2009.

"All who attended were happy, suntanned winners that day," said Betty.

The extra lucky ones were the 50/50 raffle winners: Mary Meakin (\$50), Joyce Obenhoff (\$30), and Karen Grainger (\$20). Congratulations, all!

Retiree Association members aboard the *Huron Lady II*



More photos on page 2...

Huron Lady... (continued)



Steve and Mary Kay Fedak

Enjoying the ride
on the upper deck



On the bus
to Port Huron



Mike and Noel Cartier

Joyce and Mike McNabb



A tall ship
seen along
the way is
a replica of
the Pinta



View more photos of the cruise and other spring and summer events highlighted in this issue at bcbsmretireeassoc.com. And thanks to everyone who contributed the photos appearing in this issue: Kath Arndt, Janice Crossland, Mary Ann Gehringer, Dick Goetz, Ray Newak and Rebecca Underwood.

2010 annual golf event celebrates 20 years

The Bill Burke Memorial Golf Outing, now in its 20th year, was once again a great success, with 18 teams participating. The golf outing took place at the Heather Highlands Golf Club in Holly on Aug. 20 under sunny skies.

The day began with registration and breakfast followed by a 9:30 a.m. "shotgun" start, and ended with a buffet dinner, awards, and a 50/50 raffle. Team 6A, the "T-Birdies," won the top prize for adjusted score. Members of this team were Ken Tebbetts, Kurt Kennaugh, and Tina and Mike Simeck. Winners of the 50/50 raffle were Carol Sanchez, first prize (\$80); Ken Tebbetts, second prize (\$50); and Jim Collis, third prize (\$36).

Prizes were also given away in a variety of contests, including longest drive, closest to the pin, closest to the line and "pink ball," and everyone left with a gift.

This year, retirees were joined by members of the late Bill Burke's family — sons Kelly and Kerry and grandson Sean — who expressed their appreciation to the Association for honoring Bill by continuing to hold the golf outings in his memory.



View of the course

A tip of the hat also goes to the team of volunteers who helped make the day a success. They were Ed Barszcz, Janice Crossland, Annette Foster, Linda Hampton, Kay Jones, Joyce Obenhoff and Beleta Williams.

Whether you're a new Association member or a regular participant at this annual event, we hope to see you at next year's outing set for Aug. 19.



Lela Thomas signing in



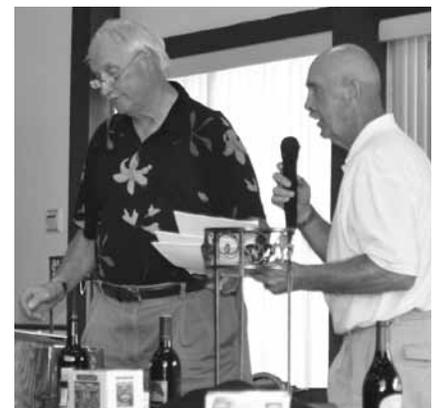
The "Memory Makers" team: From left, Jim Brakora, Kerry Burke, Kelly Burke, and Sean Burke



The "Straight Shooters" team: From left, Evaree Hays-Allen, Jim Collis, Gloria Nastas and Carol Sanchez



Golfers enjoy a hearty buffet dinner after a day on the links



Nick Grabowski, left, and Ron Price emcee at the dinner

Globetrotters Profile: Kath Arndt and grandson explore the West

"An experience of a lifetime" is how Kath Arndt describes a 36-day, 8,800 mile, 15-state road trip across America with her 12-year-old grandson Xavier Arndt in August 2009.

Her destination and goal? Seek out the most outstanding examples of our natural, cultural and historical heritage at as many locations as possible in the National Park system out West.

"Although I've traveled to Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas, I no longer think much about venturing outside the U.S. There's just so much more I want to see here," said Kath.

As a high school art student, Kath dreamed of visiting the great art museums of the world. Instead, travels to various regions of the U.S. and an interest in photography, inspired by photographers like Ansel Adams, began a lifelong love affair with the American West and photography.

By the time of her trip in 2009, Kath had visited 49 of the 50 states (she has yet to visit Alaska). So, it was no real surprise that just a few months after retiring in 2009 she embarked on a month-long photographic journey with Xavier.

"Xavier was not only beginning to tap into his budding photography interest but also, quite frankly, was one of the few people who could take that much time for a trip. I still remember the look on my son Brian's face when

he first beheld the 14,000-foot Rocky Mountains during a trip we took to Colorado in 1987. I wanted to share similar experiences with my grandson," said Kath.



Xavier up close with the wild burros in South Dakota's Wind Cave State Park.

Getting wet in the Pacific Ocean in Washington state

To prevent Xavier from becoming bored — and to keep herself awake for the long drive — Kath plotted a course that included no more than six hours of drive time per day, with two to four hours of stops and activities, some planned and many spontaneous.

"Like when Xavier tiptoed through prairie dog holes in South Dakota's Badlands National Park trying to get a great picture, and then petting wild burros at Wind Cave State Park," said Kath. "Or when he ran barefoot through the waves in the Pacific Ocean in Washington.

"On our way to Route 66 in Williams, Arizona, an unplanned stop at Davis State Park resulted in an exhilarating swim in the chilly crystal-clear Colorado River. Admittedly, though, I think Xavier was fascinated the most by Las Vegas."

Other highlights of the trip? Taking photos on the very edge of the Grand Canyon and then looking deep into the canyon from the recently opened glass-bottom Skywalk; watching Xavier rolling around endlessly in the sand at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park; and hanging out of the gondola car on the way to Silverton, Colo., via the Durango & Silverton Railroad.

As the trip wound down, Kath and Xavier tubed along a lazy river in the Wisconsin Dells and traveled by car ferry from Milwaukee to Muskegon.

Were they glad to get back home? "Sure," said Kath, "but it wasn't a long-lasting feeling. Less than a week later we were already planning to do it again in 2011!"



Rained out Tigers win in rescheduled game

A steady rain on Friday, July 23, disappointed the 107 Retiree Association ticketholders who met at Comerica Park to see the Tigers take on the Toronto Blue Jays. Many stayed at the park until a new date was announced, and nearly half attended the rescheduled game on Sunday, July 25.



Paul Williams (second from left) and guests

attend the rescheduled event were able to exchange their tickets for another Tigers play date.

“Tigers games have been a very popular activity for Retiree Association members and guests,” said retiree board member Dick Goetz. “Well over 100 attendees have participated each year over the last few seasons, but this is the first time a rainout of a Retiree Association event has occurred.”

Those who returned were rewarded with great weather and an exciting come-from-behind Tigers victory by a score of 6 to 5. Those who could not



Comerica Park



Carlo Giacopelli (second from left) and guests

Who's Who in the BCBSM Retiree Association

Officers	
President	Spencer Brown
Vice President	Ray Newak
Treasurer	Joyce Obenhoff
Secretary	Marie Bjerke
Immediate Past President	Karen Stecher
Contact Information	
Association Web site	bcbsmretireeassoc.com
Association e-mail	information@bcbsmretireeassoc.com
BCBSM Retirement Administration	Toll-free: 1-800-922-0699 Local: 313-225-9609 Fax: 1-866-238-3295 E-mail: retirementadministration@bcbsm.com
Change of address, phone number	All changes must be made in writing via e-mail at retirementadministration@bcbsm.com , by Fax, or by U.S. Mail at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Retirement Administration, Mail Code 0126, 600 East Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226
BCBSM medical claims inquiries	E-mail: employeeinquiry@BCBSM.com Phone: Medicare Plus Blue customer service, 1-866-684-8216; CAREN IVR, 1-800-858-7915
BCN claims	BCN Ombudsman, 1-888-265-4703; BCN Advantage customer service, 1-866-966-2583
Retiree checks/State Street Bank	1-888-419-8769

Spring luncheon draws large crowd

The MacRay Banquet Center in Harrison Township provided the backdrop for a relaxing and congenial spring luncheon event. More than 150 Retiree Association members and their guests attended.

Guests enjoyed a buffet lunch that included salmon or chicken Florentine and all the accompaniments.

After lunch they were serenaded by the "Resisting-a-Rest" singing group, the gold medal winners of the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2009 Seniors Quartet competition. A 50/50 raffle and giveaway of table centerpieces closed out the program.



Clockwise from front left center: Melanie Fraczek, Ed Barszcz, Peggy Smith, Bill Allen, Eunice Bickel-Smith, Francine Pegues, Beleta Williams, Annette Foster and Dan Kehoe (front right center)



From left, Judy Lynch, Barb Dietz, and Shirley Palazzola



Singing group "Resisting-a-Rest"



Edith Oliphant and Liz Hrenchuk



Gloria Butler and Betty Rozier

First time event attendees, from left: Linda Thompson, Maria Poore, Eunice Bickel-Smith, Kathy Dolan, Barry Priestman, Siti Heminger (front), Carol Floyd (back), Sue Grzelewski-Fessler, Linda Guthrie, Irene Valeri, Sheila Cushing, Bill Allen, Barbara Lipinski and Sharon Hendrian



Chrysler and Ford offer vehicle discounts to BCBSM retirees

In the market for a new car? Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Group LLC both offer discounts to BCBSM retirees through the BCBSM Employee Benefits Department. Following are details on how to take advantage of their offers.



Chrysler Affiliate Rewards Program

Chrysler Group LLC has extended its "Chrysler family" new vehicle discount to BCBSM retirees through its Affiliate Rewards Program. This means you're now eligible to purchase or lease a new Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram vehicle for 1 percent below factory invoice.

Here's how to participate:

1. First visit **www.chrysleraffiliates.com** and enter the BCBSM company code (D04771) to obtain a control number you'll need to receive the "preferred price."
2. Next, take your control number, with proof of eligibility (pension check stub or other BCBSM documentation) to any participating U.S. Chrysler, Jeep or Dodge dealership to purchase or lease your new vehicle.

If you have any questions regarding Affiliate Rewards, please call Affiliate Rewards Program Headquarters at 888-444-4321. And before heading for the dealer, you can check out **chrysler.com**, **jeep.com**, **dodge.com** and **ramtrucks.com** for the full lineup of vehicles and current incentives.

The preferred price is the maximum amount you will be charged by a participating U.S. dealer for an eligible vehicle. See dealer for details. A \$75 administration fee applies. Offer valid for up to two Chrysler Group LLC vehicles per year. Dodge Viper ACR model is not currently eligible for this program. As of August 2010, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram are registered trademarks of Chrysler Group LLC.



Ford Partner Recognition Program

Ford Motor Company recognizes Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan as a select supplier with a program called the Ford Partner Recognition Program. The program offers active and retired BCBSM and BCN employees and their spouses the opportunity to purchase or lease two Ford vehicles per year at the Ford Motor Company X-Plan price of 0.4 percent of dealer invoice.

The vehicles listed for this discount are new 2010/2011 Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles. Certain models may be excluded from the entire discount program. Check **www.fordpartner.com** for vehicle eligibility.

Here's how to participate:

1. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, you will need the following Supplier Code depending on where you worked: D7TNB for BCBSM employees or CB5YA for BCN employees.
2. The next step is to log onto the Ford Partner internet site at **www.fordpartner.com** to obtain a PIN number.
3. When you visit a participating dealership, identify yourself as a Ford Partner Recognition participant and provide the dealer with your PIN and Social Security number. As a retiree, you will need to show proof of retiree status such as a recent pension advice or proof that you were once employed by BCBSM such as a pay stub or W-2 form.

For more information, contact Employee Benefits at 313-225-7170.

"The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning." — *Mitch Albom*

Congratulations and welcome to our new retirees

The tomorrow you have been waiting for is finally today. While your contributions will not be forgotten and the respect you have earned will not fade, it is time to embrace the future your years of dedicated service have secured. (New Association members from April 12 through Aug. 13, 2010.)

Cynthia Alexander	Ilise Elliott	Janice Holden	Cathy Mozham	John Shackelton
Brenda Alley	Debra Eluskie	Donna Hufnagel	Patricia Mrowka	Roseann Simpson
Verona Asaro	Linda Evangelista	Paula Hunt	Eugenia Nicol	Deborah Smith
Deborah Banks	Sharon Evon	Jerry Jackson	Linda Niklas	Ellen Smith
Brenda Barner	Sisam Fabian	Linda Jamison	Karen Oakes	Karen Szumny
Mary Cavalli	Fontaine Fitzner	Catherine Johnson	Michael Ortwine	Linda Thompson
Delores Chase	John Fitzpatrick	Alice Laborn-Brandon	Barbara Pritchett	Geane Trotty
Gloria Cherry	Kristine Galien	Janet Lemon	Silvia Puckett	Nancy Truan
Linda Cole	Judity Gary	Michael Maland	Linda Putnam	Winnifred Tumpkin
Vanessa Cottingham	Wyolean Gates	Sherrri Malone-Gilmer	Clara Reifel	Shirley White
Jean Crawford Brown	Charles Haas	Cheryl Martin	Susie Rhodes	Sigrun Wille
Roxie Dickerson	Shirley Hawkins	Patricia McCarthy	Carol Rupp	Geri Wojczynski
David DuBois	William Hazelrigg	Barbara Mitchell	Sherry Scott	Susan Zimmerman
Margaret Durr	Sharon Hendrian	Janice Moore-Parham	Kevin Seitz	

News & Notes

Holiday party is Dec. 8

Watch your mail and check our Web site for information about the 2010 holiday party on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn. This year's celebration will be an afternoon luncheon and is sure to be a festive and fun event. You don't want to miss it.

E-mail directory updated

In this mailing you'll find an updated copy of the Retiree Association's E-mail Directory. We hope you'll find this a valuable tool for keeping in touch.

Change of address form

For your convenience, we've also enclosed a change of address form provided by Retirement Administration. Keep it handy to report a change of name, address or phone number.

Corrections

In Who's Who in the May issue, the phone number for the State Street Bank was incorrect. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. The correct number is 888-419-8769. In the group photo on the right on page 1, the fourth person listed is Barb Sesny.

...May they rest in peace

Edwin Buresh June 15, 2010

Brenda Hollis July 26, 2010

Albert Kaufman June 21, 2010

Anthony Nepsey July 30, 2010

Shirley Pettibone
July 1, 2010



The *BCBSM Retirees Newsletter* is published three times a year for members of the BCBSM Retiree Association. We'd like to hear from you. If you have a comment on the newsletter or an idea for an article, please contact us at information@bcbsmretireeassoc.com.

Also be sure to check out the Web site at bcbsmretireeassoc.com for information about upcoming events and photos of past events. We're on Facebook, too. You will find the link on our Web site.



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