

BCBSM Retirees Newsletter

*Produced for and by members of the
BCBSM Retiree Association*

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Spring and summer events bring members together

Each year Blues retirees greet the arrival of spring and warm weather with a variety of fun activities.

This year our spring luncheon, always a popular event, was held in Harrison Township at MacRay's Banquet Center overlooking Lake St. Clair. Although it was a cloudy day, we were still able to enjoy the view of the harbor, and everyone enjoyed catching up with friends and acquaintances.

The spring event included a buffet luncheon followed by a Chinese Auction, 50/50 raffle and the table centerpiece giveaways. In all, \$502 was raised for charity. The winners of the 50/50 raffle were Nancy Savinski (\$125), Beverley Studholme (\$100) and Corazetter Thomas (\$62).

In June, members got together at Camp Dearborn in Milford. They gathered in the chalet, an enclosed pavilion where a picnic lunch including hot dogs, hamburgers and salad was served.

Various activities were available, with some attendees taking advantage of the golf course or the paddle boats on the lake while others relaxed and played board games or enjoyed swimming and sun-bathing.



Imogene King-Dugan gets into the spirit before the game at Comerica Park.

In July, it was root root root for our Detroit Tigers as members brought family and friends to Comerica Park on the evening of July 12. The game pitted the Tigers against the Texas Rangers with fireworks following a Tigers win.

Thanks to Kath Arndt, Imogene King-Dugan, Dolores Gelemey-Newak and Kay Jones for taking photos at these events.

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Spring and summer events...
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Retiree Joan Vercammen, far right, with family members Steve, Lindsay and Kristen.



First-time attendees at a Retiree Association event, from left to right, Jean Duynslager, Kay Venet, Marianne Peterson, Lucy Shonk, Barbara Schmidt, Virginia (Ginny) Hosbach and Barbara Zieman at the May spring luncheon.



View from MacRay's Banquet Center where members enjoyed the May spring luncheon.



From left to right, retirees Betty Parker and Janet Crain, guest Stephen Parker and retiree Brenda Kelly relax in the Chalet at the Camp Dearborn outing June 20.



From front left to right, May luncheon attendees, Cora Thomas, Margery Coleman, Paula Hunt, Juanita Woods, Rebecca Underwood, Janet Merrick, Kay Venet and Jodi Lawitz.

Congratulations and Welcome to Our New Retirees

Denise Anderson
 Patricia Anderson
 Asif Bakhsh
 Lucille Bell
 Margaret Biddles
 Alfreda Bowling
 Debra Cebula
 Carolyn Cruse
 Mary Durrah
 Jacqueline Favot

Patricia Frederiksen
 Agnes Gowdy
 Deborah Grayson
 Dorothy Guoin
 Sandra Hayes
 Ronald Hollis
 Patricia Jackson
 Mary Joblonski
 Mark Koerner
 Elenor Kubicek

Nadine Kugler
 Barbara Lawson
 Beverly Lentz
 Raymond Lewis
 Linda Martin
 Mary McCargo
 Ceola Merity
 Judith Potteray
 Janice Robinson
 Kevin Roche

Audrey Sproul
 Gail Steinhauer
 Beverly Wheat-Armstrong
 Dennis Wickline
 Rita Williams
 Lisa Williams
 Mary Wohlscheid
 Huijun Zhuang

Globetrotters profile: Members team up to see the world

Retiree Debbie Baron, her husband Ron and retirees Paul and Ann Austin have teamed up to travel the world. "We began as friendly acquaintances," said Debbie. "In retirement, we have become wonderful friends. I retired from Corporate Finance in August 2005; Ann from PEDM in 2006; and Paul retired in 2008 as Chief Actuary. "For some, retirement is perceived as a time when you are bored and have nothing to do. It is anything but that for us!" Debbie sent us the following information.

When did you begin traveling together?

It all began when I contacted Ann about supporting my commitment to walk in the Breast Cancer 3-day in 2008. It was during that conversation that we found we were both planning cruises to Alaska in 2009. We coordinated our plans, and that trip became the first of many we've taken.

Name some of the places where you've traveled together since you retired.

Since our Alaska trip, we've traveled together to Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Russia, Peru, Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina, Ireland, Scotland, France, England, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Finland, Mexico, Germany and many Caribbean Islands.

What has been your favorite destination and why?

Agreeing on our favorite trip is really a tough one. Every trip brings special memories and we've loved them all. Whether it was taking a helicopter up to the top of Mendenhall Glacier in Alaska, visiting the Giant's Causeway or kissing the Blarney Stone in Ireland; being in Rio during Carnival, watching the sun rise from below as you stand more than 10,000 feet above sea level on Haleakala in Maui, traversing the rainforest of Antigua on ziplines, wining and dining in the Eiffel Tower, getting sprayed from the mist at Iguazu Falls in

Argentina and Brazil (When Teddy Roosevelt visited Iguazu falls, his wife quipped, "Poor LITTLE Niagara."), being amazed at the beauty and spirituality of Machu Picchu, climbing the steps of the Great Wall of China and visiting Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, or discovering the history and culture of Xi'an and Beijing, China, each has been an awesome adventure.

We tend to choose our destinations based mainly on experiencing different cultures and talking with local people about how they perceive Americans. It's fascinating to be in places that are more than a thousand years old; by comparison the United States is such a young country. We always come home appreciating what a great country we live in.

What are you planning next?

We have three future trips planned, including a Kenya safari in August. We are especially looking forward to a hot air balloon safari at sunrise over the Masai Mara. We chose this time of year to witness the "great migration" of the wildebeest and zebra from the Serengeti in Africa to the Masai Mara. In May, our travels will take us on a river cruise from Prague to Paris. Then in October, we are cruising to Italy, Spain and Portugal.



From left to right, Debbie Baron, Paul and Ann Austin, and Ron Baron in Tiananmen Square.

News & Notes

Three events to finish year

Join your fellow retirees for these final events for 2013:

- The Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon on Oct. 17 at Arnaldo's Banquet Center in Riverview.
- A visit to the recently renovated Detroit Historical Museum on Nov. 7. Lunch and lecture included.
- Our annual Holiday Party, an evening event to be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia on Dec. 5.

2013 Golf Outing was canceled

Our annual Golf Outing, which had been set for Aug. 16, was canceled due to the small number of registrations we received. The Retiree Association Board would like to know if enough members are interested in participating in future outings and also if any members would like to volunteer to work on the 2014 Golf Outing Committee. If you have questions or if you are interested in attending and/or volunteering at the Golf Outing, you may contact us by e-mail at information@miretireeassoc.com or call Nick Grabowski at (248) 889-9200.

United Way campaign starts Nov. 1

The Community Responsibility department at BCBSM would like to remind Association members that Blues retirees will have the opportunity to contribute to the United Way during the upcoming pledge drive, which runs from Friday, Nov. 1, through Friday, Nov. 29.

"Please look for communications on pledging in your mail the last week of October and consider making a contribution during this year's campaign," said Jorie Wyatt, senior Community Responsibility representative

at the Blues. "United Way focuses on education, income and basic needs -- the building blocks for a good quality of life."

If you have questions about the United Way Retiree Campaign, you may e-mail Jorie at jwyatt@bcbsm.com.

Who's who in the Association

President

- Ray Newak

Vice-president

- John McCrary

Treasurer

- Joyce Obenhoff

Secretary

- Marie Bjerke

Immediate Past President

- Spencer Brown

2014 communication options

In 2014, the Retiree Association is moving to e-mail as our major communication vehicle, with the option to continue to receive printed notices via U.S. mail for an annual fee of \$10.

If you have not already returned a notice of change form indicating your choice (e-mail vs. U.S. mail), it's not too late. A third notice is being mailed with the next event flyer mailing. You may also obtain a form at the Association Web site at miretireeassoc.com. A link to the form is on the home page.

If you have already returned your form, thank you.

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@miretireeassoc.com.

Also be sure to check out our Web site at miretireeassoc.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.

E-mail Directory updates: The directory is updated periodically and sent via e-mail to everyone on the list. If you would like to add your e-mail address, make a correction or remove your name from the list, send your request to information@miretireeassoc.com.