

BRENTWOOD RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Volume 1,

January 23, 1992

BRTA Meeting Synopsis of December 4, 1991

The Retirees of Brentwood held their second meeting on December 4 and despite the poor weather (snow showers and an uncertain weather forecast) and the absence of many members (most of whom had left for warmer and sunnier places) we had a good turnout.

Dot Zuckerman opened the meeting by summarizing the first meeting. She then discussed why we have had to form an independent chapter of retirees and the relationship of this chapter to NYSUT. Dot explained what has been happening with the missing NYSUT ballots; she has been promised by Albany that they would be mailed immediately to those who should have received them.

Dot said that the first draft of our new constitution has been completed as recently as the previous evening and there had not been sufficient time to put the draft into print. Therefore, the main item on the agenda for our next meeting in February will be a full discussion of the first constitutional draft. We will then be able to proceed to a ratification of the constitution. The committee members who drew up the first draft were: Rhoda Oser, Rhoda Stamler, June Dawson, Millie Eisenberg, Mary Ruffino, Jack Zuckerman, Miriam Massucci, and Dot Zuckerman.

Dot also discussed the resolutions for the Representative Assembly of NYSUT. Since we are not as yet an official organization because we have not adopted a constitution and elected officers according to that constitution, we cannot submit resolutions directly, but we may ask others to carry our resolutions for us. We discussed some resolutions which had been written by other teacher locals.

Miriam Massucci gave a report for the Political Action Committee. She discussed the status of the various health care plans being considered and left no doubt that any plan which varied widely from the Russo bill would be unacceptable to retired teachers.

Mary Ruffino reported for the Communications Committee. There was a meeting to lay the groundwork for our newsletter and each person on the Committee has volunteered for a specific reporting task. The first newsletter is scheduled to be published in January.

June Dawson discussed some of the ideas which had been considered by the Social Committee. She indicated that the Committee has been considering two alternatives: first, programs which will tie into our meeting schedule; some of these may include guest speakers on various topics of interest to our members and/or a spring luncheon meeting. The second alternative would be separate from the meeting schedule; ideas include a Night At the Races and a trip to Atlantic City.

-- Jack Zuckerman

NOW IS THE TIME

"In The Beginning..." This is how it feels when you participate in the creation of a new organization. No one can describe the pleasure of watching our retirement group steadily growing. Our committees are functioning now and the committee members are enthusiastic and devoted to the formation of a healthy and viable organization.

An organization is only as good as the people in it. We need you, your talents and your ideas. Join us so that you too may say, "I was there at the beginning."

Our constitution is in its first draft. We will bring it before the group at our next meeting for discussion and modifications. Based upon what evolves from this meeting a final draft will be made ready for ratification. The importance of this step is that we will become an "official" group that will have standing in the NYSUT community. Then we may proceed to elect officers and an Executive Board. From this point onward we may pursue the goals that our members have identified as priority items.

We will be able to say to an elected official, "The Retired Teachers of Brentwood want you to support universal health care!" We will be able to secure a meeting room in our own name. We will be able to plan a spring luncheon (if we want one). And perhaps what is most important now that retired teacher groups are springing up in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, we will be recognized as the pioneer group that we are, and as an example that others want to emulate.

Your help and encouragement are vital to us. Please plan to leave available the dates of the next meetings. We look forward to seeing you. Bring another Brentwood retiree with you, too!!

Dot Zuckerman

WANTED HELP -- IDEAS -- OPINIONS

Your ideas...Your opinions...Your help is vital to launch us into a perfect orbit. We can only be as good as our members' efforts will allow us to be. Don't sit on the sideline while others do the work. Be at our CONSTITUTIONAL MEETING and be able to say, "I am one of the founders of this splendid organization." Put aside the day and mark it on your calendar now!

FEBRUARY 5 - DI PIETRO CENTER - 3 P.M.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If there is any doubt about the weather...(snow, blizzard, etc.) call 567-3866 and a taped message will say if the meeting is still scheduled.

(...yes, the phone number is right this time!)

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**INFORMATION FOR SENIOR SAVINGS
SPOTLIGHT: MATURE OUTLOOK**

Mature Outlook Organization is a member of the Sears family of companies. It is geared toward saving the 50 plus population a substantial amount of money through information in its bimonthly magazine and newsletter, plus its co-sponsorship of numerous discounts.

Both the magazine and newsletter are very informative publications which contain interesting articles on health, travel, finance, cooking, senior issues and interests, etc.

Membership discounts include the following:

1. 20% discount on Holiday Inn rooms
2. 10% discount on Holiday Inn meals
3. Up to 60% savings on eyewear needs at participating Sears Optical Departments
4. Big discount on car rentals
5. Citicorp Travelers Checks with no service fees
6. Discounts on Allstate Motor Club
7. \$5,000 Travel Accident Insurance for members and their spouses
8. Sears Money Coupons valued at 10% off purchases of \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$250.

The membership includes the magazine, the newsletter and all mentioned discounts. This is a real bargain at \$9.95 for the year, especially when it includes your spouse as well.

For information on joining Mature Outlook, call 1-800-336-6330 or write: Mature Outlook
6001 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60660

-- Pat Shaw

Legislative News Notes

Welcome to the first legislative column for the Brentwood Retirees Bulletin. We will attempt to inform you about current and pending legislation at all levels of government. Though we retirees vary in ages from those too young for Medicare to others who have reached and/or passed the magic age of "65", our needs and goals are similar. Therefore, we must continue to be actively involved in legislation that affects us all.

This partial list of Health Care bills introduced at the last session of Congress should be noted. Over 30 bills were introduced and the following are likely to be acted on:

- a.) H.R. 1300 (by Rep. Marty Russo, D. Ill) is a Canadian Style approach. The Federal government will be the "single-payer of all health services" which will be available to all.
- b.) S 2117 (by George Mitchell, D. Maine) requires that employers provide private health insurance for their employees or contribute to a public plan covering the uninsured.
- c.) H.R. 3205 (by Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D. Ill) and S1446 (by Sen. Robert Kerrey, D. Neb.) reduces the need for private insurance companies, and supports a managed-care type of health coverage. Rostenkowski also wants Medicare eligibility to begin at age 60, not 65.

To date, the President has not introduced legislation for a national health plan, but the expectation is that he will do so soon.

The new session of Congress will be acting on the following: H.R. 2898/S2117 The Social Security Protection Act of 1991. This bill is sponsored by Rep. John Conyers (D. Mich) and James Sasser (D. Tenn). This bill will keep all money in the trust funds (includes administrative costs) and is to be kept separate from general revenues.

Listed below are some of the bills introduced in Albany this past year, and which may be of interest to many of us. These bills:

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Dot Zuckerman Wins

Dot Zuckerman won the NYSUT Retiree Council Election District #21 Election. She will represent the E.D. 21 Council at the NYSUT Representative Assembly to be held in March in New York City.

SOUTHERN RETIREES MEET FOR FUN AND FROLIC

I am happy to report that our Brentwood Schools Retirement Association (BSRA) is growing by leaps and bounds. As word gets around the state of Florida, we hear from more and more alumni who are thrilled to learn of our existence. The last bash was held on December 18, 1991, in Wellington as was the previous meeting; Bernie Heller hosted in the clubhouse of his condo. The following people attended:

Dorothy and Jack Becker	Sonia and Neil Davis
Marilyn and Henry DePlaza	June and Ted Farbman
Irene and Ike Fleischman	Fran and Murray Forman
Paula and Phil Freedman	Miriam and Al Friedman
Fran and Joe Graff	Sarah and Eddie Hardman
Amy and Bernie Heller	Lila and Jerry Canter
Jane and Artie Lemoine	Dorothy and Arthur Lesser
Marilyn and Jerry Lowinger	Rosalie and Michael Lubman
Claire Rien	Joyce and Chester Shapiro
Rita Shevach	Carrie and Hugh Silver
Ferda and Bruno Valente	Kathleen Wall

As we are too distant from Long Island to be a political force and are strictly meeting for fun and frolic, we hope to become the southern arm of the retirees group now meeting in Long Island and will give any support needed by them to protect all of our well-earned benefits.

Anyone wishing to join us now or in the future, contact either Anita Silverman, 9124-6 Flynn Circle, Boca Raton, FL 33496 or Marilyn DePlaza, 10609 Mendocino Lane, Boca Raton, FL 33428.

-- Anita Silverman

BRTA Participates in Holiday Gift Program

With the sentiment that "our hearts continue to be here with the Brentwood students and community," the Brentwood Retired Teachers Association at their last meeting in December decided to become participants in the Holiday Gift Program for our homeless Brentwood students.

A family with a nine and sixteen year old girl was selected. With the money collected, appropriate clothing, jewelry, and games were purchased and gift wrapped for these children.

Teri Piombo and Tish Foisset, co-chairs of the BTA Humanitarian Committee, expressed their thanks and would like us to consider continuing our support of this most worthwhile program.

"Snow Birds" Invited to Luncheon

An announcement to all retirees traveling to Florida in the near future who might like to join some other "snow birds" and "relocated birds" at their next get together. It will be a luncheon on Friday, February 21, at 1:30 p.m. at Massimo's Restaurant at Club Mission Bay in Boca Raton.

If interested call Anita Silverman, tel. (407) 852-1040, (Brentwood School Retirement Association) for reservations and directions.

BRTA Calendar Dates

January 28 - NYSUT ED 21 Retiree Council
10:00 a.m. Connetquot Public Library

February 5 - Retirees of Brentwood Meeting
3:00 p.m. DiPietro Center

February 14 - CORTLI Luncheon
Noon - LaGrange, West Islip \$18

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Legislation News

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- a.) allow a terminally ill person to obtain advance payments of death benefits from life insurance policies
- b.) streamline the process for disciplining doctors
- c.) extend veterans' benefits to members of the Merchant Marine during WWII
- d.) extend veterans' benefits to the men and women who participated in the Persian Gulf War. Also, these benefits are to be given to those military who received medals for participation in conflicts in Lebanon, Granada, and Panama
- e.) eliminate financial penalty for senior citizens who terminate a rental agreement in order to enter a health care facility
- f.) increase to \$5,000 (without proof of need) the amount of damages that can be paid to a crime victim
- g.) require crime victims to be notified when the perpetrator is on temporary release from prison, regardless of the reason for the release
- h.) define and set penalties for rent gouging
- i.) require "pre-sentence" investigation reports to contain victim's impact statement

Since local, state, and national governments are all facing severe fiscal problems, we must be aware of proposed solutions that will have a negative impact on our lives. We must protect our Social Security benefits and our annual COLA; we must fight proposals to increase taxes on Social Security benefits, and we must support legislation that will protect retirees' health benefits.

Our active involvement in legislation that affects us is an important aspect of life as a retiree. Our legislators must know where we stand. Silence in these matters is "definitely not golden."

-- Rhoda Stamler