

Dr. Brian Lutes

I'm sure everyone has had the experience of not knowing when, who or why you will next meet persons who make a very positive impression and make you feel fortunate to have come in contact with them. I've had many such experiences, especially in the last few years, since interviewing interesting candidates who become member profiles for your newsletter. Such was the case when I met and talked to this delightful couple. They were: Dr. Byron Lutes and wife Catherine.

You might consider them an international pair as they come from different national backgrounds. Dr. Lutes was born and raised in the Detroit area while Catherine is from our Canadian neighbor, Windsor. They both have medical backgrounds, with Byron earning his Medical Degree from Wayne State University and Catherine her R.N. degree from The Hotel Dieu School of nursing in Windsor.

After graduation Dr. Lutes practiced as a surgeon at Highland Park General Hospital and later opened a clinic in Warren. Sometime later he heard from a former classmate in Medical School, who convinced him to join him at Blue Care Network. He was offered and took the job as the head of the new Surgical Center in Saginaw in 1985. After ten years he became a part time consultant with BCN and eventually retired in 2001.



The Lutes family always enjoyed travel, but especially on the open road in a motor home. They bought their first 21-foot Winnebago in 1970. They have had 10 other models since that time and presently own a 27-foot Gulf Stream. Over the years they have traveled extensively over the United States and Canada. They still plan to travel, but on a more limited basis.

Prior to retirement their daughter, Heather, who always had an interest in horses became fascinated with a relatively rare breed known as miniature horses. This is a horse, which stands between 34 and 38 inches tall. The breed originated in Europe and the Shetland Isles. They were trained as workhorses to haul carts of materials. They were especially valuable in hauling coal from coalmines because of their strength and small size.

Well, Heather convinced her folks to get into the horse business. They did, but these horses now are trained as show horses with competitions for this breed nationwide. The Lutes started in by buying five horses in Bloomfield Hills. To accommodate the animals they found a 15-acre farm in Freeland Michigan. Their daughter took care of the horses and they hired a professional trainer to train them. They have been very successful by having national champions for the past eight years. They have bred other horses that achieved national champion status and their others rated in the "Top 5."

He's had quite an interesting career involving medicine, travel, equestrian breeding and showmanship. Just goes to illustrate the talent inherent in BCBSM retirees.