

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MIDDLEBORO.RETIRES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM
OCTOBER 2012

This Newsletter can be viewed on our website at - <http://mrig.info/>

LEGAL UPDATE

Our Attorneys have recently notified us that our case has now been received at the Appeals Court and been docketed, they project that we should hear sometime in mid-January of a date that the Appeals Court would hear our case. This is the appeal of the case regarding Town Meeting action only.

The paperwork withdrawing the contract portion and remainder of our case has been filed.

STATE ELECTION

It is not the policy of your Executive Committee to endorse any particular candidate. However, your Executive Committee did send a letter to the following listed candidates for State Representative containing two questions that are important to retirees.

Candidate for Representative in General Court –12th Bristol District

Roger Brunelle, Jr.
Keiko Orrall

Candidate for Representative in General Court – 12th Plymouth District

Rep. Thomas Calter, III
Debra Betz

Candidate for Representative in General Court – 2nd Plymouth District

Rep. Susan Williams Gifford

As you are a candidate for public office, we are looking for a written statement of your position on the following questions:

Question 1: What is your position on maintaining (“grandfathering”) retiree health insurance benefits to the premium percentage contribution rate they had when they retired (similar to the State system regarding retiree health insurance)?

Brunelle: I would not want to see any undue burden forced upon our retirees. I would want to see the percentage maintained.

Orrall: In general I am in favor of grandfathering retiree health insurance benefits. I understand that it is different to change the rules on someone who is already retired rather than for those currently employed.

Calter: Our retirees met their obligations and now the local and state governments must meet their obligations. Retiree health insurance benefits and their premium percentage contribution rates must be maintained as they were on the date of retirement.

No response was received from Debra Betz or Rep. Gifford.

Question 2: If you were given the opportunity today, would you vote to continue to increase the COLA base for all retirees: Commonwealth of Massachusetts retirees, Municipal and County retirees and Massachusetts Teachers Retirement systems?

Brunelle: Yes

Orrall: We are facing rising fuel and food costs and people on fixed incomes should be given special consideration. I would vote to increase the COLA base for all retirees based on their income level and number of pensions they are receiving.

Calter: I have voted in support of COLA for retirees each time the issue has come before the legislature. I will continue to do so in the future so that our retirees on fixed incomes are not unfairly burdened.

No response was received from Debra Betz or Rep. Gifford.

TOWN INSURANCE CHANGES

For Medicare retirees there will be a change on January 1 to Medex 2. MIIA has informed us that they are still waiting on the Federal Government for plan approval before they can provide us /you with any information as to what to expect. They have stated that that as soon as they receive the go ahead they will schedule meeting(s) with the retirees and at that time will pass out information regarding benefits / costs and explanations of how the new coverage will be administered. They have assured us that all members will be notified in writing of the meeting. They have said that we should expect the meeting to be 21 to 30 days prior to the implementation of the new plan.

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

On September 4th an Insurance Advisory Committee meeting was held where Town Manager, Charles Cristello floated the idea of looking into GIC insurance but using Fallon as the baseline not Tufts Navigator as is the current baseline program. Representatives of Town Unions, Police, School, Library and MRIG were in attendance as well as the MRIG committee and a representative of the Finance Committee. Mr. Cristello had agreed to look into the GIC insurance program when meeting with the PEC (Public Employee Committee) when some interest was expressed in the GIC program over MIIA.

REIMBURSEMENT FORMS ON WEBSITE

Reimbursement forms for non-Medicare retirees are located on our website. <http://mrig.info/>

CHARLIE CARD FOR THE MBTA

The following has been taken from the Lakeville Ponderings (Lakeville COA) News that we thought might be useful to some of our members.

"We were thrilled and very surprised to learn that you can qualify for and get a Charlie Card at the GATRA Taunton Office at age '60'. The GATRA Taunton office is located at 10 Oak Street, Taunton and the telephone number is 1-800-483-2500, ext. 263. You should call in the morning you want to go to the office and ask for Kim, she takes the photo for the I.D. card and wants to be sure she is in the office when you plan to go. The cost for the card is \$3.00, and you do need to show a photo I.D. with your birth

date on it (driver's license). You will be able to ride the subway service for \$1.00 and commuter rail (train) or boat service for 50% off the regular full fare and for a discounted fare to Logan. It's a good thing ...not so bad turning 60!!"

THANKS TO GEORGE

The Executive Committee wants to give a big thank you to George Chace of Millbrook Realty who has allowed us to hold our monthly meeting in his office this year. He is located on South Main Street so it is a central place that we all can get to easily.

DUES / CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are still receiving this newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service and have an e-mail address please share it with us as we can't produce notices and mail them as rapidly as we can e-mail information.

This form is available on our website. You can also fill out and print a copy of this form if you go to the contacts section of our website.

If you have any questions or you need to change any information please contact our Treasurer, Mary Cook, at richard.cook2@verizon.net or 508-821-2112 and she will help you.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION – 2012 - \$5.00

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ Check here if new address
CITY/TOWN: _____ **ZIP:** _____
E-MAIL: _____ Check here if new Email address
TELEPHONE: _____ Check here if new phone

(This information is confidential and will not be shared with any other person or organization.)

Make checks payable to: MRIG
 c/o Mary Cook
 130 Scadding Street
 Taunton, MA 02780
