

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MIDDLEBORO-RETIRES-INS-GROUP@COMCAST.NET
NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2010

THANK YOU

The Executive Committee wants to thank everyone who came to the Annual Meeting on May 18th. We had approximately seventy-five in attendance and want to thank everyone who brought donations for the COA food program. We received the following note from Andrea Priest, COA Director.

Please thank all the members of the MRIG for their very generous donations to our food program at your last meeting here at the COA. We filled an entire cart with all the items. There was a very good range of goods- all very needed for our operations. There were also some supermarket gift cards.

We appreciate the support and generosity- they will be put to good use. We are serving over 70 meals on wheels each day, so these items really free up our budget for other necessary supplies.

Thank you all again.

Andrea M. Priest
Executive Director
Middleborough Council on Aging

We also want to thank Patty Lacerda for acting as the Nominating Committee. The following nominees were elected to the Executive Board for the next year: Charles Armanetti, George Chace, Mary Cook, James Farrah, Barbara Hadsell Lynne Leary, Sue McCusker, Tom Rogers, Gene Turney, Gail Twomey and Betty Wainwright.

NEW HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION

We have been told that everyone should received their new health insurance cards and information books by the end of June. Be on the lookout and if you do not receive this information by June 30th call the Treasurer's Office at 508-946-2420 or 2421.

An article was passed at the Town's Annual Meeting on June 7th regarding reimbursements for medical co-pays and deductibles. Retirees were specified as well as employees so start saving all your receipts (doctors, prescriptions, hospital admissions, etc.) in anticipation of some type of reimbursement program.

The Town has chosen to unilaterally make these changes in health insurance without agreement from the unions or recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee, which could most likely lead to an Unfair Labor Practice Suit against the Town.

The open enrollment rates/plans letter that was sent to all retirees indicated that Dental Insurance might not be being offered to retirees (again). The Chairman sent the following letter to the Town Manager seeking verification of the letters intention:

Mr. Cristello,

MRIG (Middleboro Retirees Insurance Group) held its monthly meeting today, June 14, 2010. At the meeting several members had questions regarding Judy MacDonald's letter dated May 12, 2010. The letter states in part that the open enrollment period for Dental **(active employees only)** and Health Insurance will be May 14, 2010 to June 14, 2010.

The members questioned the meaning of **active employees only**. One, does it mean that retirees will no longer be eligible for dental insurance after June 30, 2010? Two, does it mean that retirees are excluded from making changes in their dental insurance plan? Or three, does it have some other unexplained meaning?

The MRIG Executive Committee will be sending out it's second quarter newsletter shortly and would like to include in the newsletter an explanation as to why the retirees appear to have been excluded from the dental insurance open enrollment period.

For the MRIG Retirees,

Gene Turney
GTURNEY@COMCAST.NET
508-947-4898

We then received the following from Town Treasurer Judy MacDonald in response to our question:

I confirmed with Altus Dental that open enrollment for a retiree was only for the first offering of the dental plan. Retirees must have enrolled during February 2009 (first open enrollment for Altus) or be enrolled in dental when they retire to participate in the Altus Plan. Retiree's can make changes as long as they are enrolled in the plan; however, once they drop the plan they will not be allowed to enroll again later.

Judy M. Mac Donald
Treasurer/Collector

LEGAL UPDATES

The Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) action for declaratory relief is progressing through the court system. Written briefs are to be filed by July 12th by both parties for a hearing before the judge on July 30th at Plymouth County Superior Court in Brockton. The hearing is open to the public and anyone who is interested in attending should contact the Executive Committee shortly before July 30th to confirm location and that the hearing date has not been changed. At the initial court hearing we had representatives there and the general consensus was that the judge then could put a face on those who are most affected by the case.

Our attorneys have informed us that an action for declaratory relief has been filed in Plymouth County Superior Court on behalf of our MRIG complainants and MRIG. The Town of Middleborough, the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Middleborough, and Charles J. Cristello in his capacity at Town Manager for the Town of Middleborough have been named as defendants and have been served with the required documents. We will try to keep you up to date as the case moves forward.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the Executive Committee's regular scheduled meeting in June a vote for reorganization of the Executive Board Officers was held. The following people were elected as officers for the next year:

Gene Turney – Chairman
Barbara Hadsell – Vice-Chairman
Mary Cook – Treasurer
Sue McCusker – Secretary

BY-LAW UPDATE

The By-Laws have been updated in accordance with the vote held at the Annual Meeting. The amended sections are as follows:

Article II Membership

Section 3: Annual dues of \$5.00 shall be paid on or before the date of the annual spring meeting.

Article III Governance

Section 3: A nominating committee named by the executive committee shall establish a slate of candidates for election to the executive committee of which the membership shall be notified at least ten (10) days before the May annual meeting and to which nominations may be added from the floor at the annual meeting.

Article V Quorum

Section 2: The by-laws may be amended at any meeting by an affirmative 2/3 vote, provided that the proposed amendment has been communicated to the membership at least three weeks in advance. The notification period for a proposed by-law change to be acted on at the May annual meeting will be ten (10) days.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are receiving this newsletter in paper format via the U.S. mail but have an e-mail address, please take a moment now to share that e-mail address with us, this saves on postage and printing as well as providing you with quicker information and more frequent updates than can be accomplished by our periodic paper mailings.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG) **MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION – 2010 - \$5.00**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY/TOWN: _____ ZIP: _____
E-MAIL: _____
TELEPHONE: _____

(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
