

**TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)**  
**[MIDDLEBORO.RETIREES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MIDDLEBORO.RETIREES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM)**  
**JANUARY 2012**

**LEGAL ISSUES UPDATE**

As of this date (two months after the hearing) there has been no decision filed in regard to the MTA and MRIG legal case.

We will send out notification to our membership as soon as we receive a decision.

**MEDICARE SIGN-UP WITH SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Town Treasurer has been sending out letters to various groups of retirees advising them to provide them with information and to sign up for Medicare Part B at a Social Security Office. If you did not get a letter and think you should have, you should contact the Town Treasurer's Office and follow-up to make sure your insurance will continue past July 1<sup>st</sup>. The dates referenced for sign up for Medicare must be followed (1/1/12/ to 3/31/12) to avoid penalties for late enrollment.

The Town Treasurer's Office will have an open enrollment period in May/June to choose what additional supplement plan you will want to participate in.

The telephone number for the Taunton Social Security Office is 1-877-505-4546. You will be greeted by a recorded menu of options, we found that if you hit "0" at the end of each menu you will speak to a "real" person in the Taunton office who will assist you. If you are not in the local area any Social Security Office can assist you. The Taunton Office is located on Dean Street (Route 44) for those who want to go directly there. As a reminder, make sure you photocopy anything you sent to Social Security.

We have sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking that they provide a letter stating the Town's method of paying all penalties assessed to retirees for late sign-up for Medicare. If we receive such confirmation from them we will forward to our membership to retain in your files.

**INCREASE IN COLA BASE**

The Plymouth County Retirement Board has voted an increase to the COLA base from \$12,000 to \$13,000. This base will be effective July 1, 2012 and was approved by a narrow vote of the Treasurers of the Retirements System's units (23 towns and 29 other units, such as housing authorities and school district workers).

This will be an increase of \$30.00 per year or **\$0.57 per week maximum** for our retirees.

In a weighted vote (Middleborough has 8% of the vote) the **Town of Middleborough** representative, Judy MacDonald, **voted against this increase**. Bill Farmer, Executive Director of the Retirement Board, verified this information.

## **MRIG ANNUAL MEETING**

MRIG's Annual Meeting will be held on May 15, 2012 at the Middleborough Council on Aging, 558 Plymouth Street at 1:30 PM.

The speaker will be the Regional Director for SHINE Program Serving Health Information Needs of Elders. With the change to Medicare and having to pick new supplement plans the Executive Committee thought there would be lots of interest in this.

## **WEBSITE**

Charlie Armanetti has been working on developing a website for MRIG and we expect it will be ready to roll out just before the Annual Meeting. We will provide you information prior to the meeting on how to access the website and hope you will bring questions and comments to the meeting on your reaction to the website.

## **DUES / CONTACT INFORMATION**

It's a new year and dues are being collected for 2012. They should be paid before the Annual Meeting or at that time. 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.

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.

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

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