

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

NOTICE MRIG ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

The Middleboro Retirees Insurance Group (MRIG) Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at 1:30 PM. The meeting will be at the Senior Multi-Service Center (COA), 558 Plymouth Street Middleboro, MA.

Below is the slate of Executive Committee candidates as put forward by the Nominating Committee. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. There is an open seat as an Alternate Member.

Charles Armanetti	George Chace	Mary Cook	Madeline Davern
Barbara Hadsell	Sue McCusker	Harry Pickering	June Rogers
Gene Turney	Gail Twomey	Betty Wainwright	

Alternate members: George Andrade

The Executive Committee would like to thank Patty Lacerda for volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee.

DONATION TO COUNCIL ON AGING FOOD PANTRY

The COA has been most helpful to us by providing us a meeting place at no cost whenever we have asked. As a “thank you”, we are asking that anyone attending the meeting consider bringing a donation to the COA food program. The COA’s Executive Director, Andrea Priest, suggested the following items:

Coffee (regular and decaf)	Napkins
Dish Soap (not dishwasher)	Small containers of Mayonnaise
Powdered, boxed and canned milk	Boxes of instant oatmeal
Cans of hearty soups (low salt)	Pudding Cups (sugar-free and regular)
All fruit cups	Gift cards to supermarkets

Because parking is limited, the COA has asked that those who can carpool please try to do so.

OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS MAY 4th

Remember that it is only during this time that changes can be made to your health plans – there are new rates on all plans and depending on your needs a new plan may be beneficial to you.

ANNUAL MEETING TOPICS
PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREES COLA

Mr. Dennis Gallagher, Office Coordinator / Contract Specialist of Plymouth County Retirement will be attending our Annual Meeting. He will be announcing that the Plymouth County

Retirement System Board has voted to increase the COLA base to \$14,000.00, and to authorize a 3% COLA starting 7/1/16. This is good news for our retirees. Mr. Gallagher will also talk about new services for Plymouth County retirees and take any questions.

TEACHERS COLA

Right now Gov. Baker has included a 3% COLA in his proposed budget for the upcoming year, but it is still using the \$13,000.00 base. We hope that this will not be cut in further budget negotiations.

HEALTH CARE CHANGES

Nola Jean Goodrich of the Town Treasurer's Office will be at our Annual Meeting. She is the retiree contact person regarding health care and retirement issues.

At the Annual Town Meeting in 2013 there was an article to disburse Mitigation Funds to Medicare retirees over a period of time. We have spoken with Judy MacDonald, Town Treasurer and agreed to a reduction in premium of \$2.59 per month starting 7/1/16 to disburse the remaining funds not used during the last reduction period. This reduction will run for one year and will return all the agreed mitigation funds to the retirees. More on this at the Annual Meeting.

Medicare retirees again faced a change this January in our prescription drug plan – Silverscript was introduced as the new provider. Generally we have not heard many complaints, some are paying more than they used to, some are paying less, and some have found more paperwork to get some prescriptions covered. How are you finding the new program? Let us know, we were promised there would be little change, let's see if this is so.

WEP REFORM, NEW VETERANS BENEFIT, AND IMPROVEMENT IN AFTER RETIREMENT EARNING LIMITS

For anyone who has worked for both the public sector and the private under Social Security you know about the Windfall Elimination Provision that offsets some of your Social Security earnings. As an update, hearings are being held in Washington on this. A bi-partisan group of congressmen on the Ways and Means Committee (Congressman Richard Neal, D-MA, Kevin Brady, R-TX, Sam Johnson, R-TX) have introduced HR711 to address changing the WEP provisions. The Mass. Retirees have been taking a very active role in fighting for the improvement titles above. You can follow these stories on the Mass. Retirees website and we will explain them at our Annual Meeting.

Please send us an email if you are planning to attend our Annual Meeting.

We encourage everyone who can, to attend this meeting. Your support of our efforts, on your behalf, is necessary to make it a Town priority to keep the health insurance promise made to us through our working years and into retirement.

Following the meeting is a great time to get together with other retirees, former co-workers and catch up on their activities.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION – 2016 - \$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
