

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MIDDLEBORO.RETIREES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM
MARCH 2017

NOTICE MRIG ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

The Middleboro Retirees Insurance Group (MRIG) Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, 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.

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:

Regular Coffee and Decaf Coffee	8 oz. Hot and Cold Cups
Kleenex Tissue	Paper Towels
Napkins	Dish Soap (not dishwasher)
Supermarket Gift Cards	Hearty Canned Soups – low sodium
Large Deep Aluminum Steamer Pans	

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

OPEN ENROLLMENT

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.

The Treasurer’s Office is mailing out packets of information regarding the upcoming changes and open enrollment. Carefully review the materials sent to you and if you have questions

regarding any of the plans attend a Health Fair and talk to the representatives of the plans being offered and GIC staff.

GIC INCREASES HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

The State's Group Insurance Commission voted earlier this month to increase the premiums, co-pays and deductibles for health insurance in all categories starting in June. For those on the Medicare Supplement plan with OME, co-pays will be instituted on this plan for the first time. Originally the vote was for a \$20 per visit co-pay, but as of right now GIC seems to have changed that vote to \$10 co-pay per visit. They also voted to continue the prescription drug program with CVS.

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.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREES COLA

The Plymouth County Retirement Association Board voted to support a 3% COLA based on the first \$14,000 in retirement income effective July 1, 2017. Previously the COLA had been based on the first \$13,000 in retirement income.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS – SELECTMEN

The Town of Middleborough Annual Election will be held on April 1, 2017. Say you don't need to vote – all candidates need to know your opinion of them and one way is to show up at the polls and indicate your support or not.

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. The Mass. Retirees have been taking a very active role in fighting for passage of all three bills. You can follow these stories on the Mass. Retirees website and we will explain them at our Annual Meeting.

We encourage everyone who can, to attend our Annual 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.

DUES / CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 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.

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG) **MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION – 2015 - \$5.00**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

____ Check here if new address

ZIP: _____

____ Check here if new Email address

____ 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