

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

DOOR PRIZES

Three lucky attendees will be awarded door prizes at the end of the meeting. What the prizes are is a secret, but definitely something you would want to win.

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.

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.

GIC INCREASES HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

The State's Group Insurance Commission voted earlier this year to increase the premiums, co-pays and deductibles for health insurance in all categories starting in July. For those on the Medicare Supplement plan with OME, co-pays will be instituted on this plan for the first time, \$10 co-pays per visit. Originally the vote was for a \$20 per visit co-pay, but after a public hearing they did change the 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.

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.

AMENDMENTS TO BUDGET – CAPS TO OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES

The House of Representatives is expected to begin debate on the FY18 budget on Monday, April 24th, the following amendments are included in the budget and address issues that are of great concern to us.

#1169: GIC Out of Pocket Cap, filed by Rep. Paul Mark: This amendment caps annual state and local out-of-pocket costs (co-payments and deductibles) at \$2,500 per person or \$5,000 per family. The state Group Insurance Commission (GIC) currently caps these costs

at \$5,000 per person or \$10,000 per family. Cities and towns adopting the Municipal Insurance Reform law (Sections 22-23, M.G.L. Chapter 32B) would be bound by this cap, as well as the GIC.

#745: Group Insurance Commission, filed by Rep. Dan Cullinane: This amendment restructures the GIC by limiting the Governor's power to unilaterally appoint all 17 commissioners. The proposal grants *Mass Retirees* an appointed retiree representative on the Commission. All five labor seats on the Commission would be appointed by their respective unions. In addition, two of the 17 commissioners would be appointed by the legislative leadership. Currently, the GIC insures over 435,000 lives, which include a growing number of retirees and employees from over 60 municipalities and subdivisions.

Everyone is encouraged to contact your representative and senator to ask them to support these bills.

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