

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MIDDLEBORO.RETIREES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM
APRIL 2018

NOTICE MRIG ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

The Middleboro Retirees Insurance Group (MRIG) Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 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	George Andrade	June Rogers
Gene Turney	Gail Twomey	Betty Wainwright	

Alternate Members: Harry Pickering

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	Liquid Laundry Detergent
Zip-lock sandwich bags	Paper Napkins
Powered Lemonade (NOT sugar free)	Paper Towels
Dish Soap (not dishwasher)	Supermarket Gift Cards
Kleenex Tissues	8 oz. hot and cold cups

Because parking is limited, the COA has asked that those who can carpool please try to do so. Also use the second parking lot and come in through the front entrance

GIC CHANGES

January of this year brought a flurry of activity at the GIC. They abruptly announced major changes to the number of health care plans provided by the State with very little notice to board members or to enrollees of any of the health plans. Thanks to all of you who responded to our email to contact your representatives, senators, labor unions and attended public hearings to let them know of our general displeasure. The GIC board reversed their decision and the plans remained intact for another year. The Board has made some concessions as to notification time lines but they are still looking for cost savings.

TOWN PLANS FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COST ANALYSIS

The Town plans to enter into an agreement with Marsh & McLennan to prepare a Health Insurance Cost Analysis for the purpose of determining if they can obtain health insurance for employees and retirees at a lower cost than what it is currently paying to belong to GIC.

SURVEY RESULTS

We want to thank everyone who responded to our survey regarding your health insurance experience since being with GIC. At the Annual Meeting the results will be discussed and we will be looking for a consensus of opinion from those attending as to what direction we should be going in if the Town wants to leave GIC.

PLYMOUTH COUNTY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

A representative of the Plymouth County Retirement Association will be attending our meeting. He has some updates for us on the COLA and the affidavit forms that were recently sent out as well as other Plymouth County issues and requirements.

The Plymouth County Retirement Association Board voted to support moving the COLA base from \$14,000 to \$16,000. Subject to approval of the Treasurer Advisory Council who are meeting on May 2, 2018. We are hopeful he will have good news for us at the Annual Meeting.

AMENDMENTS TO BUDGET

You recently received e-mails from us regarding the amendments to the budget we need your help on getting passed. The House of Representatives is to begin debate on the FY18 budget this week. The following amendments are included in the budget and address issues that are of great concern to us.

#1048, Day: (Municipal) Retiree Protection

Grandfathers the local health insurance premium percentage paid by municipal retirees at the current ratio split. Cities and towns would still be able to increase premium percentages paid by future retirees, but would be required to hold-harmless existing retirees.

#1124, Cusack: Post Retirement Earnings

Removes the annual hourly limitation for public retirees who return to part-time public sector employment within Massachusetts. Currently, the law limits both the annual earnings and hours worked (limit is 960 hours a year).

#379, Cullinane: Group Insurance Commission Composition

Filed in conjunction with the AFL-CIO and coalition of public employee unions, the amendment would reconfigure the 17-member GIC to ensure proper representation of retirees and active employees. The amendment will also provide for greater transparency and input by stakeholders in advance of provider selection and plan design decisions being made.

If these measures are passed in the House of Representatives we will be contacting you again to contact your Senators to vote for these issues.

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 – 2018 - \$5.00**

NAME: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	☐ Check here if new address
CITY/TOWN: _____	ZIP: _____
E-MAIL: _____	☐ Check here if new Email address
TELEPHONE: _____	☐ 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