

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MIDDLEBORO.RETIREES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM
NOVEMBER 2020

HELLO AGAIN!!

It has been a long time since the Executive Committee has been able to meet and we took advantage of the beautiful fall weather and met November 7th outside at the patio adjacent to the Alley Theatre. We were all masked up and were able to conduct some business pertaining to health insurance.

Charlie Armanetti introduced Marsha Brunelle and nominated her to Executive Committee membership. She will be replacing Harry Pickering who has passed away. A motion was made and seconded to welcome Marsha to the Executive Committee.

HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts GIC is in the process of going out to bid for health insurance this fall for coverage starting July 1, 2021. We will keep you updated as we are made aware of any changes that are being anticipated.

We also want to remind any non-Medicare retirees that there is still a reimbursement program for certain co-pays and deductibles that you may have incurred. The Treasurer's Office has the information for you and the proper way to apply for any reimbursements. The money is there so take advantage of what you can.

MEDICARE BUY-IN PROGRAM

We have also been made aware that there is a program out there called "Medicare Buy-In". This would only be for retirees over the age of 65 who are not eligible for regular Medicare and are currently having to remain in plans that are more costly and with more co-pays and deductibles. What we have been told is that the Town would have to agree to pay the Part A premium and any penalties for not enrolling in Medicare at age 65. You would then have to pay for Medicare Part B monthly (currently \$144.60) plus a supplemental plan through the Town.

There are not many retirees who fall into this category but we would like to know if you are interested in our researching the possibility of having the Town participate in this. We are attaching a survey questionnaire to the end of this newsletter and would really like to hear back from everyone who this program would impact. We will only go forward if enough members are interested, any information you provide will not be accessed by anyone beyond the Executive Committee.

SOME GOOD NEWS

By the time you receive this newsletter we are hopeful that the Governor will have signed the budget. The budget as submitted, by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, contains a 3% COLA, retroactive to July 1st for teachers. It also contains an extension of the post retirement earnings waiver that was to expire December 31st. This will extend this law for the duration of the pandemic into 2021. This law removes restrictions on hours and earnings for the period of the State of Emergency due to Covid-19. Any hours worked during this period will not count to the yearly maximum of post retirement earnings.

They have also included full funding for pension and GIC obligations. With the pandemic these things were all put off and are just recently being addressed.

DUES / CONTACT INFORMATION

There will be no dues assessed for the 2020 -2021 year.

Please update any information that is out of date

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG) **MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION – 2020-2021**

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

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.

Executive Committee Members

We are providing you with contact information for our committee so that if you have any questions or concerns there may be someone on this list you might be more comfortable in contacting.

Charles Armanetti	Ltca@comcast.net	George Chace	gchace@comcast.net
Mary Cook	richardcook2@verizon.net	Madeline Davern	mdavern29@yahoo.com
Barbara Hadsell	508-947-4406	Sue McCusker	susanomccusker@yahoo.com
George Andrade	capt.geo@comcast.net	June Rogers	junerogers4410@gmail.com
Gene Turney	gturney1@gmail.com	Gail Twomey	twomeyg@verizon.net
Betty Wainwright	betty.wainwright@aol.com	Marsha Brunelle	m.brunelle2@verizon.net

SURVEY - MEDICARE BUY-IN

Return to Charles Armanetti, 7 Leonard Street, Carver, MA 02330 or email to Ltca@comcast.net

Name: _____

Are you interested in being able to enroll in Medicare? _____

Current Enrollment: Single Plan: _____ Family Plan: _____

Your current age: _____ (We ask this because penalties are based upon number of years over
age of 65)

How many people are enrolled under your family plan? _____

Age of dependent(s): _____ (For penalty information only)
