

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MIDDLEBORO.RETIREES.INS.GROUP@GMAIL.COM
APRIL 2024

ANNUAL MEETING –APRIL 30, 2024

The Middleboro Retirees Insurance Group (MRIG) Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 1:30 PM. The meeting will be at the Senior Multi-Service Center (COA), 558 Plymouth Street Middleboro, MA. Doors will open at 1:15 PM for dues payment and contact information updates. 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	Gene Turney	Mary Cook	Madeline Davern
Susan McCusker	Marsha Brunelle	June Rogers	Wendy Brier
Gail Twomey	Danielle Bowker	Robin Marie Mobley	

Alternate Members: Barbara Hadsell Deborah Batista Betty Wainwright

The Executive Committee would like to thank Maryanna Abren 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. In the COA’s March Newsletter their WISH list included the following items:

Heavy Duty Scour Pads Liquid laundry detergent Large Steamer pans 12”x24”x3” Individually wrapped, sugar free and low sugar pudding and Jello cups, cheese and crackers, peanut butter crackers, cookies and other treats are welcome.

Supermarket Gift Cards and Cash Donations are always welcomed.

Because parking is limited, the COA has asked that those who can carpool please try to do so, park in the 2nd lot and to enter through the front entrance.

HEALTH CARE UPDATES

As many of you know those retirees who carry Unicare Health plans will be seeing a name change this spring. Unicare will now be known as Wellpoint. This is a name rebranding and we have been told that there are no planned changes. Look for the new name as the new benefit guide will be coming out by April 1st with the new name. So like many of us, watch the mail for Wellpoint - it is not junk mail!

New insurance cards will be issued prior to the July change over date for those who currently have Unicare plans.

If you are happy with your present insurance you do not have to do anything during the Open Enrollment period.

In January the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) voted that there will be no changes to plan design, co-pays and deductibles for the next year.

The new rates were approved for health and dental insurance at the February 29th meeting. The average increase for non-Medicare plans will be around 9.5% and for Medicare plans an average of 4.1%. The increases were largely driven by the increase in prescription drug costs. The rate for the retiree dental plan thru MetLife will remain unchanged. The specific rates for the different health care plans will be sent out before the April open enrollment period.

Last year Unicare introduced a chronic care management program called IBIS. We have met with the representative of the IBIS program and have included a letter from him in explanation of their goals. Members of our committee have also provided information on this program to the COA Shine Program Coordinators.

If we receive responses from a minimum of 30 people who would commit to attending a presentation on the IBIS program we can make arrangements to have Mr. Brodsky come to Middleboro. You can respond to Gene Turney at gturney1@gmail.com or to any member of the committee.

To: GENE & JEANNE Turney <gturney1@gmail.com>

Gary. A. Brodsky
IBIS Health

Living with chronic health concerns can be a challenge, with multiple doctors to keep track of, vital signs to take, and many medications to manage. But if you are among the 60 percent of older Americans who live with two or more conditions, including diabetes, heart failure, hypertension, heart disease, and COPD, the good news is that there is help.

Ibis Health™, an innovative chronic care management program from Harvard, Massachusetts-based Senscio Systems turns your home into the first point of access for day-to-day care, combining virtual monitoring with on-call clinical team support to empower you to live well on your terms and help keep you feeling your best in between doctor visits.

Covered by Medicare Part B and all Medicare supplemental plans, Ibis Health members receive a personal home care monitoring kit that helps them to track weight, medications, diet, exercise, and other health indicators, flagging risks for decline before they happen. Ibis member advocates work one-on-one to help personalize the program to your needs. Ibis Health members have reported 37 percent fewer hospitalizations, and over 94 percent would recommend the program to others.

Please visit www.ibishealth.org to learn more about the Ibis Health program and how it can help you or someone you love. To read about how Ibis Health helped retired elementary school teacher Mary Chamberlain realize her dream of visiting the Grand Canyon, please visit <https://www.ibishealth.org/post/marychamberlain>

We would set up a dedicated representative to speak with and enroll MRIG and COA members.

I hope the meeting with COA and SHINE goes well on 2/2.

Best,

Gary. A. Brodsky
VP, Business Development
781-812-8377

UPCOMING RENEWAL PERIOD WITH STATE GIC INSURANCE

In anticipation of the renewal period for Group Insurance Coverage the committee members have been trying to get union representative information in case the Town decides to look elsewhere for health insurance coverage. At our Annual Meeting last year Town Manager McGrail stated he was very open to looking elsewhere for insurance. There is a process that is supposed to be followed by the Town in consultation with a Public Employee Committee (PEC) before any changes are made and further steps to follow in the implementation of any such changes. Some towns in Massachusetts have moved to different plans without employee or retiree input. It is up to all employees and retirees to be aware of this possibility. The Mass Retirees designates the only retiree representative to serve on the PEC and currently this is Gene Turney. We hope that the Town realizes that the GIC offers the best variety of insurance plans at varying price ranges and coverage. The Town went through this process during the last renewal period and found that GIC had far more to offer at better prices for both the employee/retiree and the Town.

Earlier this year Gene Turney and Charlie Armanetti, being our PEC and IAC representatives, attended a program in Quincy sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield titled "Educational Discussion: Public Sector Healthcare". This program outlined the laws and process of bargaining for health care within the Town by employees and retirees. Every labor union in the town has a voice in this through their individual PEC representative and we as retirees have a seat at the table when and if the Town should want to make changes.

JUST A NOTE

This past Spring members of the Executive Committee, primarily Charlie Armanetti, attended Select Board Meetings of Towns belonging to Plymouth County Retirement Association and advocating for their vote to approve the additional 2% COLA that was available to retirees if sufficient Town Boards agreed. This project was definitely beyond the MRIG mission statement, but someone had to do it! Hope you enjoyed the money!

REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM STILL GOING ON

We recently found out that some of our new retirees were not aware of this reimbursement program. So this is a reminder to any non-Medicare retirees and active employees 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. You can also go to our website at MRIG.org – on the left column click on Contacts and Forms – scroll to Other Forms and download Middleboro Health Insurance Reimbursement forms. You can print this out and fill it out or it can be filled out on line and then printed out to be used for submitting to the Town along with all back up information. There are specific time lines involved in submitting any claims.

The money is there so take advantage of what you can.

DUES / CONTACT INFORMATION

We are updating our Dues / Contact Information form to include spouse's names. Please provide us with this information by submitting the below form to us or contacting any of the committee members listed. The Annual Meeting will be a great time to update this information. The doors to the Annual Meeting will open at 1:15 PM and the Treasurer will be available at that time to collect dues and any contact

information changes. The meeting will start at 1:30 PM and she will be available after the meeting for any follow up information required.

Any questions regarding dues or membership information please contact Mary Cook, Treasurer. For any other questions please contact Charlie Armanetti, Chairman or Gene Turney, Vice Chairman.

Charles Armanetti, Chairman	ltca@comcast.net	508-728-2700
Gene Turney, Vice-Chairman	gturney1@gmail.com	508-747-4898
Mary Cook, Treasurer	richard.cook2@verizon.net	508-821-2112

TOWN OF MIDDLEBORO RETIREES INSURANCE GROUP (MRIG)
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION – 2024/2025 - \$5.00

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

Number of people covered through your health insurance: _____

(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 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.
