

Don't Miss MERA'S  
Annual Picnic on June 15.  
Call Clair Kramer at 484-  
256-7168 by June 9.  
It's a great time!



# MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members  
June 2023

Want to know more?  
Check us out at  
[merasite.org](http://merasite.org)

## A Note from MERA President

June is OUR picnic month. I hope you are planning to attend. This is the last gathering for our group this summer. Enjoy the long summer days! See you at the picnic!  
Jim

## Saying Goodbye (but not really) and Thank You to Two Distinguished Board Members

Two of our most devoted and hard-working board members recently announced they are leaving the MERA Board of Directors. Each has had a tremendous impact on our association.

**Henry Robidoux** joined the board in 1994 and was President from 2001 – 2007. Two major policies, still in place today, were enacted during his tenure: surviving spouses of employees may continue to be MERA members and membership dues are waived if the employee joins during his or her first year of retirement. While Henry was president, the association reached its peak in membership at 500. He has remained on the board as MERA's first Director Emeritus serving many roles including chairing the trips committee, heading up by-laws oversight and leading nominating efforts. Most recently he has created the MERA Bluebird Trail at Jim Dietrich Park where MERA holds many of its meetings. "As an officer of the company, I felt I had an obligation to support Met-Ed employees even in their retirement!"

**Sandy Myskowski** is the reason you are reading the MERA Hometown News right now! She introduced the idea of a MERA newsletter in April 2011 and wrote all the issues up to 2020. She saw it as a fun way for MERA members to stay connected. The first issue in May 2011 included snippets about several members and over time it expanded to include wedding anniversaries, coverage of MERA events, Sunshine, volunteering, accomplishments, etc.! Sandy was Vice President for two years and President of the Board for four years (2019 – 2022) including the difficult time during Covid. Her leadership kept us together and ensured there would still be a Met-Ed Retirees Association once we emerged from the lockdown! A techie at heart, Sandy spearheaded the development of the MERA website and the transition to email communications for members. Both of those advancements have been critical to MERA's continued success while coping with FirstEnergy's withdrawal of support.

“Talking with all the Members and having fun with them. Seeing their smiling faces has been my greatest joy during my 12 years on the MERA Board.”

We owe Henry and Sandy a huge debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts on our behalf. MERA would not be where we are today without the contributions of these two exceptional leaders. Be sure to thank them - as well as their spouses Philomena and Bill - the next time you see them!

## **A Patriotic Tribute to Honor MERA's Own Heroes**

From July 2-8, the Stone House Pond at 1216 Parkside Drive North in Wyomissing will host a stirring display of 90 American flags to pay tribute to our heroes. Each flag is placed to remember an individual or group of individuals so we can honor our heroes. The Met-Ed Retirees Association has sponsored a flag to acknowledge and thank the many MERA members who served our country in the military.

All are invited to visit the Berks County Inaugural Field of Honor® patriotic display and walk among the posted flags. The display is open to all without charge.

Additionally, the presentation will raise funds for community projects of the West Reading-Wyomissing Rotary Club.

If you'd like to learn more about the Berks County Inaugural Field of Honor®, possibly even sponsor your own flag to honor someone in your life, go to the website: <https://www.healingfield.org/event/berkscounty23/>

## **Changes at FirstEnergy**

FirstEnergy recently announced it is relocating its headquarters from downtown Akron to the company's offices in West Akron as part of an office consolidation plan. The company also announced it's laying off about 90 employees across the company.

Another approximately 670 employees will be eligible for a voluntary retirement program. Each employee will decide whether or not to participate. Eligible employees are active non-bargaining employees who are age 55 or older with at least 10 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2023. (Some employee groups, including those involved in day-to-day core operations serving customers, aren't eligible.)

## **Welcome New Members!**

A very warm MERA welcome to new retirees **Lori Lobb**, **Drew Keiser** and **Richard Snyder**. Congratulations! **Paula Berstler** also joined MERA last month. Welcome!

Remember, anyone who brings a new member to MERA during the year will be eligible to win a gift card drawing held during the annual Christmas luncheon. Help us grow by bringing new members to the fold!

## **The Sunshine Report**

MERA's own Sunshine Chair, **Cindy Doaty**, sends cards and notes to members who need a kind word. Recently, MERA sent a sympathy card to **Jeff Bauer** whose mother recently passed. If you know of a MERA member who needs some sunshine, please let Karen Baxter know at [kbaxter@ptd.net](mailto:kbaxter@ptd.net).

## June MERA Member Milestones

### Happy Anniversary!

Kathy & Dean Baim  
Ronald & Janet Bortz  
Eugene & Dolores Carter  
Denis & Kathy Dorward  
Thomas & Gail Edelman  
Allan & Lela Epting  
David & Judy Fair  
Ralph & Estelle Fehr  
Earl & Anne Frantz  
Ronald & Patti Furman  
Robert & Charlotte Galgon  
Gerald & Janet Hotzman  
Ronald & Sharon Hrabak  
Fred & Mary Janosky  
Roxann Luckenbill & Jeff Sterner  
Donald & Lynn Miller

Sandy & Bill Myskowski  
Ralph & Bonnie Paparella  
Rory & Josephine Pfeifer  
Patricia & Michael Phile  
Jane & Verlin Renner  
Ralph & Marva Rhode  
Ron & Joy Sands  
William & Linda Schlegel  
Jerry & Dolores Schlott  
Bruce & Maria Stempo  
Dick & Pat Tracy  
Ray & Faye Warmkessel

### Happy Milestone Birthday!

Mary Janosky  
William Marshall-Davis  
Pat Tracy

Do you have any comments  
or recommendations for  
MERA? A program?  
Newsletter article? Please  
email MERA at  
[meraberks@gmail.com](mailto:meraberks@gmail.com).

Life is like riding a bicycle.  
To keep your balance,  
you must keep moving.

Albert Einstein

