

AMERA HOMETOWN NEWS

A COMPILATION OF ITEMS OF INTEREST TO MERA MEMBERS OCTOBER 2022

A NOTE FROM MERA PRESIDENT

Have a Bluebird Day!

Thanks to Becky and Henry, MERA is hosting a very special event to learn about these most wonderful Bluebirds. Henry is even building Bluebird houses for a special project! Don't miss MERA Bluebird Day on Monday, October 17 at 1:00 at the Muhlenberg Rec Center featuring Terry Gerhart, from the PA Bluebird Society. You've got to come out for this fun time!



Our niece Tricia knows how much Bill and I love the Bluebirds and she made this plaque for us, truly a family heirloom: Have a Bluebird Day!

God's blessings to you and your loved ones for a Bluebird Day!

Sandy

AMERA CONTINUALLY STRIVES FOR CONSISTENT COMMUNICATIONS

This month we continue to implement our email communications plan as we work towards full email delivery of MERA communications. What do you need to do? Well, open the email, of course, but it is also very important to know which group you are in. Are you Group 1, 2, 3 or 4? Maybe you are in Group 5? (Hint: Everyone is in Group 5!)

Group 1 – Beginning in July, **most** MERA members received **both** an email version and a hard copy mailing of MERA's communications. The email version contains images that you "click on" to take you to the different components of the mailing (Hometown News, flyers, program information, etc.). Be sure to check out the email version and let us know what you think! **We originally planned to phase in electronic delivery and send members both an email and a hardcopy version through the end of 2022. However, FirstEnergy has withdrawn its support of MERA mailings effective immediately. Consequently, hardcopy mailings via USPS have been discontinued as of October unless we do not have your email address (see Group 4).**

Group 2 – Beginning in July, if you are one of the 78 members who helped us to test and perfect our email communications, you receive **only** the email version.

Group 3 - Beginning in July, if you joined MERA since January 2022, you receive **only** the email version.

Group 4 - If you are a MERA member who does **not** have an email address, you have not been left out! We will continue to prepare and send hard copy versions of the MERA mailing via US Mail to this group of members.

Group 5 – Regular communication to every MERA member is very important to the MERA Board and leaders. We are working hard to maintain quality communications despite the many changes to our existing communications systems. But we need your help! **If you've got email...watch for emails from MERABERKS and open them!** (And, check your spam filter if you aren't receiving MERA emails!) Using email to deliver MERA's monthly communications is more flexible, timelier, and in color!

If you have any questions about MERA email communications, please let me know at kbaxter@ptd.net.

NERA MEMBER PROFILE

Will Flowers has discovered the key to staying young: 1. Go to Disney World. Says Will, "I feel 10 years younger there! I'm just a big kid again!"; 2. Plan to shoot your age on the golf course. He's doing pretty well with an 84 and a handicap of 15; and 3. His wife's good southern cooking.

Will is a Reading, PA kid. He grew up in the Glenside Housing Project and attended Reading High School. His dream was to attend Wyomissing Polytechnic and become a toolmaker but, at the time, the school excluded minority candidates. With his typical pragmatic and positive attitude, Will moved on. He joined the Army Reserves in 1957 for a 6-year stint. And, more importantly, he married Doris in 1958 and now regularly welcomes five generations to the Flowers home.

Will joined FirstEnergy in July 1977 after an already established 25-year career at the Berkshire Knitting Mills. He started in FE's business offices and served as buyer and expeditor and was a contract administrator when he retired 17 years later in 1994. Although Will's retirement did include part-time work as a bank teller and at Willow Hollow Golf Course. Both positions helped to maximize his time on the golf course.

Will has had six (not a typo – *six*) holes-in-one in his golfing career, including the almost statistically impossible one featured in the Reading Eagle. In 2010, he and his buddy had back-to-back holes-in-one. Will on Hole #5 at Willow Hollow and his buddy on Hole #6 during the same game. Will also can boast of one albatross (aka double eagle). His love of golf extended to organizing an annual bus trip for golfers to Myrtle Beach for 25 years.

In addition to golf, Will rounds out his life with a love of jazz and travel - especially cruising and trips to Wildwood with the family. He is a big fan of science fiction and recommends any part of the Star Trek franchise to his fellow retirees. He also advises, "Keep moving!" It certainly has seemed to work for Will!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR READY.SET.READ! PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed to tutor 2nd grade students who need extra support with reading in the following school districts - Antietam, Brandywine, Conrad Weiser, Daniel Boone, Exeter, Hamburg, Kutztown Area, Oley Valley, Reading, and Honey Brook Elementary. Morning, lunch, and afternoon times are available. No previous teaching experience is required, and training is provided.

This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering weekly for one hour or with a partner tutoring twice per month during the 2022-2023 school year. Background clearances are required.

Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or darbyw@uwberks.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Welcomes new member **Richard Piergrossi**. We are so very happy to have you with us! Remember, anyone who recruits a new member any time during the year will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates at the Holiday Luncheon. The new member form can be found on merasite.org.

OCTOBER NERA MEMBER MILESTONES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Bruce & Maria Balthaser
Robert & Charlene Benner
John & Karen Bigelow
Ken & Joyce Bunting

Robert N. & Marilyn Daniels
Larry J. & Linda Henne
David M. & Dorothy Herbein
Richard & Sarah Johnson

Steve & Linda Rathman
Henry & Philomena Robidoux
Jon & Kelly Storch
Richard J. & Suzanne Zitrick

HAPPY MILESTONE BIRTHDAY!

Keith Day

Stu Degler

Edna Kramer

Barbara Kunder

Carol Lewis

Roxann Luckenbill

George Rhoads

Clarence Trupe

Nancy Wenrich

**In the Falkland Islands,
the first Monday in
October is a public
holiday known as
Peat Cutting Day.**

Now you know.

