

Be a part of the 44th
Annual Anniversary
Luncheon
April 25, 11-2
Registration Deadline
April 19.
Call Gary 610-927-7590
Bring a dessert to share!



MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members
April 2024

Want to know more?
Check us out at
merasite.org

A Note from MERA (Vice) President

I was in Florida and now Jim is enjoying time in Florida!
Welcome Spring! Although as I write this note it's 37 degrees. The Annual Anniversary Luncheon is right around the corner on Thursday, April 25th at Victor Emmanuel's. We had a great time last year. Hope to see you there! Also hope you are looking forward to outside activities since our general meetings will be outside at Jim Dietrich Park in May & June. Come and chat with friends and former co-workers!

Cindy

MERA Member Bits & Pieces

Florida is the destination of choice for quite a few MERA members. **Lisa and Gary Pleiss** are heading off to the Sunshine State to visit a longtime friend. They are looking forward to sharing some fun memories with him. **Henry Robidoux** sends an update from the ever-popular Florida. He reports, "Two of our sons moved to Englewood, Florida in 2022 & 2023 absconding with five of our grandchildren. Our plans to move into our home in Englewood have been delayed so we are presently living in Naples (where we were snowbirds for 12 years after I retired because our other 4 grandchildren lived here). One of those grandsons lives here with our great grandson and great granddaughter (born 3/6/2024!). Our other 3 great granddaughters live in Chicago. But we are ALL getting together at Disney for a week. We miss MERA and all the people!" Congratulations to **Dean & Monie Hollenbacher** who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next month. **Bill Schaeffer** and his wife **Annette** headed to "Vegas, Baby!" to take in the Super Bowl Experience. The event was held in February, the week of the Super Bowl, and included a tour of a Super Bowl museum featuring locker room mock-ups, Bowl rings, bejeweled helmets and more. Best of all, the Schaeffers got to stand on the field itself during Media Day as the players came on to the field.

One thing we know, MERA members are busy people. This column is all about keeping us connected by reporting quick snapshots of MERA member activities. We'd love to hear from you. Submit your items by emailing meraberks@gmail.com.

MERA Spring Events

MAY 20, 1:00 pm (note corrected time): General Meeting at Jim Dietrich Park

Live music by Steve Barth. Steve has been an entertainer for many years. He will play the guitar and sing some of your favorite tunes from the past. Be ready to sing along (no judgement here) and have fun! And, of course, refreshments will be served by our president Jim and his able and devoted staff. Remember to bring a jacket in case it's chilly.

JUNE 20, 11:00: MERA Annual Picnic at Jim Dietrich Park

Feast on typical summer fare: cold cuts, salads, baked beans and hamburger barbecue, a winning combination! And don't forget the ICE CREAM! Please take note that we are able to slightly reduce the price to \$15 per person. Hurrah! Arrive early starting at 11:00 a.m. to get your preferred seats. Bring a few bucks along and take a chance on the money raffle. There will be 4 prizes if the total collected will be in excess of \$100. First prize gets 40% of the total. Inquiries & registration: contact Clair or Edna Kramer at 610-683-8342 or 484-256-7168 cell.

JUNE 26: Sails & Rails! Daytrip.

Includes: Motorcoach transportation, lunch cruise on the "Proud Mary Showboat" at Raystown Lake and trolley ride at the Rock Hill Trolley, and an ice cream treat! Price is \$185 per person. Inquiries & registration: contact Larry Lenhart at 610-582-5212 or 610-207-3026 (cell phone) or email wisserl@aol.com. Registration deadline is May 21.

Met-Ed Golf League – You're Invited!

Retirees, family, friends and current employees are all eligible to join the Met-Ed Golf League. The League plays Wednesday evenings (tee off between 4-5pm) at Rich Maiden Golf Course, Fleetwood, PA. Nine hole stroke play with handicaps. The cost to join the league is \$50 (all money paid out in prizes). Contact **Andy Hunter** at jarshunter@icloud.com. Time to hit the links!

Help Wanted

Hometown News is seeking a MERA member who enjoys writing and would like to be an occasional, contributing writer/reporter to the monthly newsletter. Do you have a bit of the journalist in you? Enjoy writing? Hometown News needs you! Contact Karen Baxter at kbaxter@ptd.net.

PA Attorney General's Office Protects Seniors

The March MERA General Meeting featured a presentation by the head of the Senior Protection Unit from the PA Attorney General's Office. Here is some important contact information if you or someone you know is the victim of a scam:

Senior Protection Unit
seniors@attorneygeneral.gov
1-866-623-2137

Health Care Section
healthcare@attorneygeneral.gov
1-877-888-4877

Bureau of Consumer Protection
scams@attorneygeneral.gov
1-800-441-2555

FE Transfers Some Pensions to Third Party

During the recent FirstEnergy Live event, President and CEO Brian Tierney discussed the various strategic steps the company has been taking to improve its financial position. One of these steps is undergoing a pension risk transfer (PRT), also known as a pension lift-out. This transfer helps the company manage the overall risk to the pension trust and control costs while ensuring the security of retirees' pension benefits.

FirstEnergy has fully funded the pension benefit obligation transferred to Banner Life Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Legal & General America, and RGA Reinsurance Company. As part of the PRT, FE has agreed to purchase a group annuity contract with Banner Life Insurance Company and RGA for approximately 2,200 retirees of our former competitive generation subsidiaries, including FirstEnergy Solutions, FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company and FirstEnergy Generation. This PRT does not include or have any effect on current FirstEnergy employees.

Here are some essential things to know:

- Impacted retirees were notified of the change in January and will be contacted by Banner Life in early March.
- Banner Life will be the administrator of the benefits and the primary point of contact for annuity payment questions beginning March 5, 2024.
- The value of a retiree's pension benefit will not be affected, and monthly payments will continue automatically and uninterrupted based on the current direct deposit or paper check payment method.

The administrative transfer to Banner Life will happen automatically without any action needed from the retirees.

For a complete list of FAQs, please go to

<https://www.feretirees.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/FirstEnergy-Annuity-FAQ-2023.pdf>

Welcome New Members!

A very warm MERA welcome to new members: **Dave Reed, Deb Bosler, Al Gordon,** and **Cheryl Haring.** We hope to see you at a MERA event soon!

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!

April MERA Member Milestones Happy April Anniversary!

Steve & Marti Berry
Curtis & Arlene Bonanni
Roy & Barbara Gehris
Kent & Lisa Hatt
Kathy & Rick Heffner
George & Marianne Kline
Stew & Tina McDonough
Barbara & Steve Modrick

Nelson & Betty Moeller
Dennis & Morena O'Brien
Glenn & MaryBeth Speicher
Earl & Terry Suchomelly
Cathy & Michael Thomas
John & Jean Walter
Barbara & Mike Witman
Jim & Joyce Zeiber

Happy April Milestone Birthday!

Maria Balthaser
Dean Hollenbacher
Michael Kirkhoff
Patricia Wright

Do you have any comments or recommendations for MERA? A program? Newsletter article? Please email MERA at meraberks@gmail.com.

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them."
—Phyllis Diller

