

NERA HOMETOWN NEWS

A compilation of items of interest to NERA Members February 2022

A Note from NERA President

Well, February can be a dreary month in the Northeast. So I began thinking about fun things in February:

Valentine's Day 🍫 chocolates and Mardi Gras costumes 🎭 and beads and NASCAR Daytona 🏁

And NERA Fun Stuff:

The Superbowl Contest, Prizes \$\$

February 21: Let's Talk Travel with Marie Wright and Stu Degler at the Muhlenberg Rec Center 3025 River Rd
Fasnachts, yummy!

February 22: Hiking at Exeter Scenic River Trail and Happy Hour at Island Pizza
Sounds like great fun and we can pretend we are traveling to the islands.

A pretty sunny February ahead!

Sandy

Sandbille7@gmail.com 610 678 9374

Breaking News: April 21 Anniversary Luncheon Cancelled

In January, we had to make a decision on the April 21 Anniversary Luncheon, due to planning and communications lead times. After conversations with restaurants and Board Members, Jim Zeiber, NERA Luncheons Director, reluctantly made the difficult decision to cancel the April 21 Anniversary Luncheon. There were just too many unknowns.

But on the bright side, our June 16 Picnic is just two months from April. And we can be outdoors enjoying ourselves and having fun with our buddies. Great food, maybe some games and more fun....in the fresh air....bring it on! So even though we have to cancel the April Luncheon, we will be busy planning a really fun Outdoor Picnic in June!

Good News: We plan to continue our general meetings, hikes and happy hours in February, March, April with outdoor music in May and the trip to experience the Virginia International Tattoo in April. Thanks to our Program Team, led by Becky Wingenroth, and our Trips Team, led by Larry Lenhart. See you at these fun events!

NERA Member Profile

In 1955, Avalion Bossler started working for Met-Ed providing administrative support to the Sales Department. This was a time when the company was heavily promoting the use of electricity to industrial, commercial and residential customers. Part of this effort included an on-site test kitchen so Met-Ed's home economists could demonstrate all the wonderful features of electric appliances. For Hometown News, Avalion searched through her drawer full of recipes. One of her favorites was Carnival Cones (recipe below) which were big hits at her boys' birthday parties.

Looking back, demonstrating the uses of the electric skillet wasn't the only thing that seems incongruous to today's electric utility workplace. When Avalion became pregnant with her first son, she knew she would be leaving the company. At the time, like many employers, the company preferred single or married women without children so there would not be a position for Avalion if she wanted to continue working. "My co-workers – mostly men – gave me a baby shower in the Met-Ed kitchen," laughs Avalion. Using her memory that seems absolutely undimmed, she remembers, "They gave me an electric bottle warmer shaped like a rocket and an electric bottle sterilizer!"

As Avalion left Met-Ed, her husband Clark Bossler joined the company, grateful for the regular work and good benefits to support his new family. He started as a janitor at Titus Station eventually becoming a well-respected leader in the Met-Ed line department. He retired from Met-Ed in 1994 and sadly died in 2019. Avalion and Clark were married for 63 years. They met at a basketball game in Fleetwood. They have two sons and seven grandchildren. Avalion welcomed her first great grandchild in December 2021.

She is active with the Laureldale Senior Club, the Leesport Historical Society, her church and MERA (obviously). She is a member of the Lady Colfax Rebekah Lodge and the Order of the Eastern Star. She likes to read and cook – her mac and cheese is famous among friends and family. But what really lights her up is swimming. “I love to swim. It just relaxes me.” Weather permitting, she does 15-20 laps a day. Just four years ago, prior to a health scare, Avalion was swimming 50 laps a day!

Avalion’s advice to fellow retirees: Make each day count and spend time reading your Bible.

Met-Ed Home Economics Recipe for Carnival Cones

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Make batter for cupcakes as directed on any flavor cake mix package. Pour batter into flat bottomed waffle ice cream cones, filling scant ½ full. If you fill the cones too full, they won’t have a nice round top. Set on baking pan and bake 15-18 minutes. Cool and frost.

More Met-Ed Home Economics recipes, courtesy of Avalion Bossler, can be found on the MERA website, merasite.org.

2022 Membership Dues – Now Due!

Did the Holidays put you behind schedule? Happens to the best of us. If you haven’t paid your 2022 MERA dues – still a bargain at just \$5 – you can find the membership renewal form on our website, merasite.org, under the Printable Forms tab.

February MERA Member Milestones Happy February Anniversary!

Willard and Doris Flowers...64
George and Nancy Fies...58
Bob and Barbara Pettit...58
Warren and Virginia Snyder...56
Richard and Patrecia Christ...52
William and Diana Day...51
Tim and Barbara Nuhfer...52

Mike and Jennifer Stewart...51
William and Barbara Smith...47
John and Leslee Wlodyka...46
James and Susan Thomas...40
Daniel and Cindy Bausher...37
Lin and Kathy Seyler...32
Ken and Pat Templin...32

Happy February Milestone Birthday!

A milestone birthday is one that ends in a “0” or a “5.”
We don’t have this data for every member,
so feel free to let us know if we missed you.

Cynthia Bausher

February Weather in Pennsylvania...

The Snow-Shower

*Here delicate snow-stars, out of the cloud,
Come floating downward in airy play,
Like spangles dropped from the glistening
crowd
That whiten by night
the milky way.*

—William Cullen Bryant (1794–1878)



Next meeting on February 21, 2022 at 1:00 pm at Muhl Rec Ctr



Jan 4, 2022

MERA Members: *Since we did not have a January Membership Meeting, we are sending our 'Summary' Board Meeting Results to keep you informed.*



Happy Valentine's Day! We love you all!



Present: Karen Baxter, Stu Degler, Dean Hbllenbacher, Clair Kramer, Larry Lenhart, Nelson Moeller, Sandy Myskowski, Cindy Thomas, Becky Wngenroth, Jim Zeiber, Walt Lasota and Vince Schimoler. **Absent:** Henry Robidoux and Jennifer Rivera (Met-Ed Liaison).

The MERA Board of Directors' (BOD) meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by President, Sandy Myskowski, via conference call.

Dean presented the Treasurer's Report as of Dec. 31, 2021 which was prepared by Barry. The bank balance for Dec 31, 2021 is \$11,345.69. [Previous year Bank Balance: \$12,907.49. Difference: \$1,561.80]. Dean developed the 2022 budget with board input.

Sandy welcomed Vince to the board. Vince will be performing the 2021 financial audit.

Met-Ed Liaison, Jennifer Rivera, was not able to attend. Jennifer sent Sandy information about the FirstEnergy reorganization as it impacts Met-Ed. There will be a PA President, Scott Wyman. He is naming regional directors. Reading Line and Substation now reports to David Cooper and Lebanon Line & Substation now reports to Mark Sondag. The new operational structure and associated leadership changes will become effective in late January 2022.

COMMITTEES:

Membership: Karen reported there are 453 members. There were 3 new members in Dec 2021: Irene Molina, Kathleen Lindsey and Don Carroll. About 288 members have renewed for 2022. A notice will go to members who have not yet paid their dues followed by personal phone calls. Our goal is to have 100% renewal!

Programs: See program flyer that is included with this mailing. The Senior Emergency Preparedness program will be rescheduled. Becky reported that hikes will be coordinated by Bonnie Paparella. Bonnie will poll attendees at the upcoming hikes for interest in other locations.

Snack Support: Jim reported the snacks need to be replenished. Sandy suggested that Jim recruit another person to take over snacks.

Trips: Larry reported the April trip to Virginia International Tatoo has 10 reservations.

Luncheons: Jim reported the Anniversary luncheon hasn't been scheduled. The board decided to cancel the April Luncheon. We will plan to make the picnic extra special.

Picnics: Clair reported picnics have been scheduled at Jim Dietrich Park for June 16 and Sept 15.

Website: Nelson is transitioning from Ken Speicher. Nelson is reviewing content to make sure it's current and up to date. He is also adding some new items, such as a Met-Ed Recipes page.

Member Mailing: Walt reported the mail team will send survey questions to test email members. The mail team is working towards sending electronic newsletters.

Next meeting on Feb 21st will be at Muhlenberg Rec Center at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Thomas, Secretary

NERA Programs: February/March 2022

Please note: Check for any cancellations on our website

NERA hikes/happy hours: **Bonnie Paparella** has agreed to coordinate our MERA hikes/happy hours. She is looking for people willing to lead any hike as well as ideas for hike locations throughout the year. Feel free to email her at bonniepaparella@yahoo.com or call her at (610) 207 0258 with your input! Thanks Bonnie!

Questions on programs: Continue to call or text Becky Wingenroth at (610) 451 5567.

*****February*****



NERA Super Bowl Pick'Em Contest! See Flyer on the website (merasite.org) for an opportunity to win a gift card. You do NOT have to be a football expert to win!!



Let's Talk Travel! Join us on **February 21st at 1pm at the Muhlenberg Rec Center** located at 3025 River Road for an interactive discussion with Stu Degler and Marie Wright, exploring tips on traveling, how to prepare for domestic and international travel, and discover interests of potential travelers in MERA independently or in a group.



Winter Hike on the Exeter River Trail and Happy Hour! We will meet on **Tuesday February 22nd at 3pm** at the parking lot at the end of E Neversink Rd, where it meets W Neversink Rd. Follow your GPS to the Trout Run Sports Complex (the parking lot is just outside that entrance). We will hike to the east end of the Exeter River Trail, at Gibraltar Rd. and back, about 2 miles. Those wishing to hike longer may continue on the trail toward the west end, near Forest Hills Memorial Park, another 2 miles round trip, or as far as you wish. Calm dogs on the leash are welcome. We will then retire to **Island Pizza, 3060 Limekiln Rd., Birdsboro, for our Happy Hour, around 4pm.** Choose to hike first, or come just for the happy hour.

*****March*****



Exploring our Genealogy! Join us on **Monday, March 21st at 1pm** at the **Muhlenberg Rec Center on River Road** for a program on genealogy by Alan (Al) Russell. Al earned a BS in Computer Science, MS in Computer Science, and an MBA in Management from Michigan State University, and a Ph.D. in Information Systems from Kennedy-Western University. In addition to investigating his own ancestral lines, he has done so for many others - including all his high school classmates and all the members of his church.



Snow Geese! Another outdoor winter opportunity! Bring your cameras and binoculars to watch the snow geese migration at **Middle Creek Wildlife Preserve** on **March 8th at 10:30am.** A tremendous sight! Meet at the Willow Point Trail, off of Kleinfeltersville Rd. Hopefully the geese will still be migrating at that peak time. You can choose to watch the geese and/or go for a short hike at Middle Creek, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Call Bonnie Paparella for further details.



Spring Hike and Happy Hour! Join us on **Tuesday, March 29th** for a Spring hike at 3pm at the **Wyomissing Creek** (meet at the Reading Museum) followed by **Happy Hour at 3rd & Spruce** (starting about 4pm). You choose whether you participate in the hike, the happy hour or both! Leashed, calm pets are welcome for the hike.



MET-ED RETIREES ASSOCIATION
OF BERKS COUNTY
See us at: merasite.org

2022 CALENDAR

Tuesday, Jan. 4	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Monday, Jan. 17	General Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 7	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Monday, Feb. 21	General Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Feb. 22	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, Mar. 7	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Monday, Mar. 21	General Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Mar. 29	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, Apr. 4	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Apr. 26	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
April 27 -29	TRIP: Virginia International Tattoo	
Monday, May 2	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Monday, May 16	General Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 31	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, June 6	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Thursday, June 9	TRIP: Baltimore Dine Around	
Thursday, June 16	ANNUAL PICNIC	11 :00 AM
Tuesday, June 28	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Wednesday, July 27	TRIP: Mystery Trip	
Tuesday, Sept. 6	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Sept 13	TRIP: Annapolis, MD	
Thursday, Sept. 15	CHICKEN BAKE	11:00 AM
Tuesday, Sept. 27	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, Oct. 3	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct 12	TRIP: Penn's Peak	
Thursday, Oct. 17	General Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Oct. 25	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 7	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Monday, Nov. 21	General Meeting	1:00 PM
Tuesday, Nov. 29	Hike/Happy Hour	3:00 PM/4:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 5	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00 PM
Thursday, Dec 8	TRIP: Christmas in Cape May, NJ	
Thursday, Dec. 15	CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON	11:00 AM

Notes

- (1) BOARD MEETINGS are held at Muhlenberg Rec Center
- (2) GENERAL MEETINGS are held at Muhlenberg Rec Center or Jim Dietrich Park. See Newsletter and preceding minutes.
- (3) LUNCHEONS, PICNICS and TRIPS will be announced in separate flyers. They will be mailed to you during the year.
- (4) Hike/Happy Hour locations will be announced in the Newsletter and preceding minutes.