

MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members
November 2022



A Note from MERA President

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!
Thank you to our Veterans!

Throughout the year, we all have some challenges, either individually, with family or our loved ones or with an organization, even our MERA organization.

For a few days in November, and perhaps beyond, we linger on our blessings of Faith, Family, Friends and Freedoms.

We thank our Veterans for their Service in keeping us free, on their special day, November 11.

We relish in the wonderful enjoyment of children and grandchildren and of family additions, including the furry ones, and of old and new flourishing friendships.

These blessings bring us Smiles, fill us with Joy and surround us with Peace.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!
Sandy

MERA Communications Move to Email Delivery

If you are reading this...congratulations! You have successfully navigated MERA's new email delivery of our monthly communications packets including the Hometown News, event and trip flyers and program information. Check out all the subheads by clicking on the illustrations so you don't miss anything!

MERA 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 However, FirstEnergy has withdrawn its support of MERA mailings. Consequently, hardcopy mailings via USPS have been discontinued as of last month (unless we do not have your email address).

So, be sure to look for emails from MERABERKS. With email, our communication pieces can include color and can be designed for easier reading since the articles don't have to be crowded onto a single sheet of paper.

Can you help us out? Whenever you are talking with fellow MERA members, ask them if they received the MERABERKS email and if they opened it and read the content. About 80% of our members open the email regularly, but we want it to be 100%!

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

It's Time to Renew your MERA Membership!

Renewing your membership is simple and inexpensive!

MERA dues are still just \$5.00! What can you get for five bucks, these days, that delivers this much value?

MERA connects you to a community of fun-loving and caring seniors. Meet up with workplace friends and meet some new ones! Most retirees will tell you they do not miss the work but they do miss the people ...MERA is the answer! There's always something new at MERA...walks, history talks, picnics, bus trips, luncheons, live music...and lots of laughter! MERA gets you out of the house and smiling! **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Just follow these easy steps:

- **Complete the renewal membership form. To find the form, just click on the image included in this email or you can find it on the website under "printable forms." If you don't have a printer, simply write down the information requested on the form on a piece of paper and send it in!**
- **Make a check out to MERA for \$5.**
- **Send the form and the check by December 31, 2022 to Karen Baxter, 2 Belgian Lane, Wernersville, PA 19565**

THANK YOU!

MERA Member Profile

Kitty Wise has a song in her heart. It's been a bit muted since her beloved husband of 52 years Don Wise died four months ago. But the song is still there. You can hear it in the lilt of her voice and the music in her giggle.

Kitty and Don both worked at Met-Ed/First Energy and were married in 1970. Kitty joined the company right after graduating from Reading High School in 1959. She started in the steno pool (where they had rotary phones too!). After a couple years she was asked to manage the group which consisted of about six professional typists. Soon, the head of the treasury department asked Kitty to serve as his secretary. She left in 1977 to pursue other interests.

Don started with the company in the 60's and retired in 1994. Kitty says she received many sympathy notes when Don died and the word used most often to describe him was "kind." Not a bad way to be remembered.

Kitty took her first ride on a plane when she and Don went to Seattle for their honeymoon. Later the couple would spend three months every year in Arizona with western friends and family.

After he retired, Don heard his wife singing around the house and urged her to consider performing professionally. So, she screwed up her courage and approached the owners of Anthony's Trattoria to see if they would let her give it a go. On the first night, the owner approached her during a break between songs. Kitty thought she was going to be asked to leave! But instead, he arranged the equipment so the diners could see her better. Kitty sang at Anthony's every other Saturday night for 20 years. She sings at other events too. Like the MERA Christmas Luncheon! "I sing anything!" Kitty says. "Show tunes, country, the Great American Songbook, you name it!"

She is a follower of the soap opera General Hospital and even got Don hooked on it. As a devoted reader, Barnes & Noble is her favorite store. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden is her favorite book. Coastal Grille, where the two celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2020 (outside during Covid), was Don's favorite restaurant. Kitty's advice to all: "Keep moving and going out! Don't let anything stop you!"

Volunteers needed to "Ring the Bell"

MERA is again volunteering to help the Salvation Army by "ringing the bell" during their Christmas Red Kettle Campaign. MERA has 8 one-hour time slots available on Thursday, December 1 beginning at 10:00 AM with the last time slot beginning at 5:00 PM. We will again be located inside the Berkshire Mall at the entrance to Boscov's (warm and cozy).

Please consider helping with this worthwhile cause! Contact **Kathy Seyler** by email (kseyler67@gmail.com) or by phone (610-921-2921). This is a "feel good/give back" opportunity and it only takes one hour of your time in a nice, warm environment. Thanks for everyone's support!

Trip Summary

METED Retiree Trip to Annapolis, MD – September 13, 2022

Submitted by Kathy and Denis Dorward

The day in Annapolis started with a narrated cruise aboard the Lady Sarah, located at the Annapolis docks. We viewed the U.S. Naval Academy from the waters of the scenic Severn River. The athletic fields of the Academy line the banks of the river. Bancroft Hall is said to be the largest contiguous academic dormitory in the U.S. and is home for the entire brigade of 4,000 midshipmen. The gold dome of the chapel rose above the skyline and many other campus buildings. Several Yard Patrol (YP crafts) were seen on the river. They are used by the United States Navy for training and for research.

The cruise was followed by lunch at the Blackwall Hitch in downtown Annapolis. After lunch we were dropped off in the historic district of Annapolis in front of the Maryland

State House. Most of the two hours of free time was spent walking and browsing the streets lined with shops, food establishments, and pubs. Some of the group took tours of the Maryland State House as well as other historical buildings.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome new members **Jane Blatt, Terry Hasenauer, Mark Mancias, Mary Beth Mancias and Lisa Hetrick**. 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.

November MERA Member Milestones

Happy Anniversary!

Leon E. & Lenora Adam
Robert & Jeanne Ann Arthur
Peter D. & Judy Culshaw
Richard & Susan D'Angelo
Brian & Christine Gasser
Greg & Kris Gillotti
Andy & Peggie Hunter
Clair D. & Edna Kramer

Michael P. & Judy Krepps
D. Scott & Darlene Moyer
Barry & Geri Seidel
Glenn A. & Judy Sillhart
James A. & Teresa Strock
Sam & Bonnie Thomas
James E. & Helen Wilhelm

Happy Milestone Birthday!

Brian Gasser
Alan Harris
Rosalie Krammes
Colleen Makowiecki
Kenneth J. Peters
Kenneth Speicher
Kim Leibensperger
Ralph B. Rhode

On November 15, 1896, the first long-distance transmission of hydroelectricity from the Niagara Falls Power Company flowed to Buffalo, N.Y., 26 miles away.

