

In Memoriam

AMRHEIN, GERALDINE.....8/22/2012
 BAHNEY, HARRY10/17/2012
 BARRY, MARGUERITE9/12/2012
 BASS, MARION6/25/2012
 BIEDRZYCKI, ANNA9/7/2012
 BINGER, GARY1/6/2013
 BLUEMLING, RAYMOND.....11/19/2012
 BOBRUKIEWICZ, SALLY.....8/9/2012
 BUCZKOWSKIM, AUDREY ..10/15/2012
 BUMBERA, DOROTHY10/10/2012
 BUSEY, ALVIN.....6/14/2012
 CHERNOTOWICH, ESTHER...12/11/2012
 CONNER, DOLORES.....11/22/2012
 CONNERS, WILLIAM.....8/6/2012
 DAVIS, MICHAEL1/8/2013
 DEBAR, WILLIAM9/11/2012
 FARMA, GERALDINE9/16/2012
 FASSINGER, DAVID11/1/2012
 FERRACO, CAROL12/7/2012
 FOLAN, MICHAEL10/8/2012
 FOX, JAMES8/5/2012
 FRANCI, GEORGINA6/22/2012
 FULTON, JAMES10/4/2012
 GIEHLL, LORRAINE9/22/2012
 GIPSON, MARY12/1/2012
 GRAHAM, AUDREY12/20/2012
 GREER, DIANE6/22/2012
 HASKINS, ELIZABETH8/24/2012
 HITT, LAURENE.....12/3/2012
 HOLLIDAY, HARRIET10/6/2012
 HONICK, DARRYL1/4/2013
 HONT, MARIA.....12/30/2012
 HORNER, IRENE9/7/2012
 HORNICKEL, ALICE1/6/2013
 HUNTER, EDWARD.....3/22/2012
 IACOVINO, JOHN10/22/2012
 JARZYNSKA, THOMAS.....8/6/2012
 JOHNSON, GENEVA10/3/2012
 JOHNSTON, REBECCA5/26/2012
 KELLY, MARTIN.....11/14/2012
 KING, DOUGLAS11/27/2012
 KNESTAUT, FREDA.....8/31/2012
 KORBEL, CYNTHIA.....12/6/2012
 KULESA, MYRNA.....10/26/2012
 KWELLER, ELEANOR9/30/2012
 LANDY, PATRICK.....12/28/2012
 LEBOWITZ, MALCOLM.....11/6/2012
 LIVINGSTONE, DONALD11/22/2012
 LONDON, FLORENCE11/21/2012
 MANDELLA, BETTY.....12/29/2012
 MANKIN, STANFORD10/11/2012
 MARTIN, ANTHONY8/23/2012
 MAZZETTI, ANGELO.....11/29/2012
 MCCAFFREY, GENEVIEVE11/6/2012

MCCARTHY, THOMAS10/23/2012
 MCDANIEL, DEAN12/1/2012
 MCDONOUGH, JOHN10/2/2012
 MCHUGH, RICHARD12/3/2012
 MCKERAHAN, MARGARET ...8/25/2012
 MIKELL, JACQUELINE1/8/2013
 MILITO, FRED.....12/18/2012
 MILLER, AMY12/24/2012
 MOLONGOWSKI, LEON8/8/2012
 MOON, DOROTHY10/18/2012
 MOONEY, OLGA.....12/1/2012
 OLLISON, GLORIA.....4/3/2012
 PHILBERT, CHARLES.....10/5/2012
 PODLESNIK, HARRY11/27/2012
 POPIDEN, EDMUND7/13/2012
 POWERS, BEATRICE1/8/2013
 PSUTY, HENRY10/15/2012
 RICUPERO, VINCENT8/10/2012
 RODGERS, PHYLLIS9/24/2012
 ROMPALA, CASIMIR10/25/2012
 RONEY, JAMES8/12/2012
 ROSLECK, ROBERT.....12/20/2012
 SALADA, MARGARET.....11/16/2012
 SCHWAB, ANNA11/5/2012
 SCHWARTZ, LILLIAN8/17/2012
 SGRO, CATHERINE8/17/2012
 SIEGLER, KATHERINE.....8/5/2012
 SIENKIEWICZ, EDWARD11/26/2012
 SLEMENDA, JOHN.....9/15/2012
 SLONE, STUART10/16/2012
 SMITH, HARRY.....12/3/2012
 SNYDER, EVELYN1/10/2013
 SPADA, HENRIETTA9/26/2012
 SPENCER, ZAMMER9/23/2012
 STANLEY, WILLIAM.....8/16/2012
 STEVICK, SHARON9/11/2012
 STOKES, MARY9/17/2012
 STRAH, MARY.....12/24/2012
 STRATTON, ELEANOR10/9/2012
 SUGHRUE, ANN8/19/2012
 SWEENEY, JOHN12/17/2012
 SZYMANSKI, LOUIS10/25/2012
 TANDARICH, STELLA12/20/2012
 TENNYSON, STELLA12/6/2012
 THOMPSON, BERNICE12/27/2012
 WALLACE, MARY9/9/2012
 WEIDMAN, RONALD.....9/8/2012
 WINE, TIMOTHY12/12/2012
 WISNIEWSKI, MARILYN8/8/2012
 YOLKMAN, CAROLINE.....12/26/2012
 YOUNG, EUGENE12/30/2012
 ZAREMBA, LEONA.....12/4/2012
 ZYCHOWSKI, ELIZABETH8/4/2012

Member News

Bill Gallagher, long-time member and former Vice President of ACRA, is at home recuperating from recent surgery. We know that he would like to hear from his many friends.



His home address is
 1100 Penn Center Blvd
 Apartment 314
 Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Summary-of Major Board Actions

At its December meeting, the Board voted to remove Bill Gallagher from his position as Vice-President and as Board Member since he had not attended any meetings or fulfilled his duties as VP for all of 2012. Bill had been given oral and written warnings of the possible action over several months but chose not to respond. With Bill's position vacant, the Board then acted to name Joe Scorpion as Vice-President in recognition of his long tenure on the Board.

The Board also chose to split the Treasurer's duties into two separate functions. Ron Chleboski will continue handling deposits and expenses, providing reports and reconciling accounts with the bank statements. New Board Member Angela Conte will take over full responsibility for receiving luncheon reservations and coordinating the numbers with the hotel. She had already been helping Ron with some of these duties over the last several months. Angela was authorized to open a second Post Office Box more convenient to her home to use for her new responsibilities.

Possible luncheon programs and Walk 'n' Talks were planned for 2013. President Pat Cray briefed the Board on several changes at the County Retirement Office which will be the subject of one of the spring luncheons and mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

By Roger Westman, Secretary



ACRA • P.O. Box 371 • Gibsonsia, PA 15044-0371 • 412-539-9307

ACRA is registered as a tax-exempt 501(c)(4) organization, established under the Internal Revenue Code for the sole and express purpose of promoting the common good and general welfare of its members.

OFFICERS:

Patricia Cray.....President
Joseph Scorpion Vice President
Ron Chleboski Treasurer
Roger Westman.....Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ginny Bowman, Editor
Angela Conte
Eileen McFadden Drake
Diane Welsh

MARCH 2013

News

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, another new year is upon us, and with it comes an opportunity to sweep out the old and try something new. Here are a few of the changes your Board has implemented:

Change #1 - The last couple years we've had difficulty attracting members to our June luncheons; and so, this year we've eliminated the June luncheon altogether. Here are the luncheon dates for 2013: March 20, April 17, May 15, September 18, October 16, November 20 and our annual Christmas Party on December 11. All will take place at the Doubletree by Hilton. The Doubletree has agreed to honor the same price structure we've had with them for the last three years, in spite of their rising costs. That means your price will remain the same.

Last month I had several long conversations with the hotel on the subject of cold food. They have promised to make an even greater effort than before, but asked that we give them better numbers so they know how many to prepare for. As you know, this has been an ongoing problem for us, one that we've struggled to resolve. We ask for your cooperation going forward so your Board doesn't have to resort to even more Draconian measures than imposing a surcharge for showing up without a reservation.

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TIMOTHY JOHNSON NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RETIREMENT BOARD



Timothy Johnson,
 Executive Director
 Allegheny County Employees'
 Retirement System
 County Office Building
 542 Forbes Avenue, Room 106
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219
 412-350-4674

Timothy Johnson, appointed in December 2012 as the Executive Director, Retirement Board of Allegheny County, brings a wealth of experience to his new job! He is a former member of the Retirement Board, having served between 2005 and 2011. In that capacity he helped craft investment policies, hire investment managers, monitor plan performance, trustee education and process improvement.

Mr. Johnson created an Annual Public Pension Summit, held locally, that brings together plan sponsors, trustees, elected municipal and school district officials to discuss issues critical to the success of pension funds. He wrote and presented "The Power of Trustee Engagement" for enhancing trustee and pension plan involvement. And he helped in the study and preparation of Pension Plan legislation.

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LUNCHEONS

March 20
 John Weinstein
 Allegheny County Treasurer
 President, AC Retirement Board

April 17
 Kevin Baden
 Duquesne Light's WattChoices

May 15
 Tim Johnson
 Executive Director
 Retirement Board of AC

save the dates

WALK 'N TALK
Friday, April 26
 Deutchtown, North Side

Thursday, June 6
 Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued from page 1

Change #2 - We had such good results with our Walk 'n' Talks last year—Washington's Landing in July, and an even bigger registration for the Halloween tour of Allegheny Cemetery that, unfortunately, got blown off our calendar by Superstorm Sandy—that we've scheduled even more for 2013.

When we canvassed our luncheon crowd for their preferred Walk 'n' Talk locations, Deutchtown was a close second to Washington's Landing. And so, on Friday, April 26, Venture Outdoors will conduct our tour of the Deutchtown area on the North Side of Pittsburgh. More specific directions will be provided to those who register, but it will run from 11:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. Those who wish are invited to join us for lunch at Max's Allegheny Tavern afterward. The price for the tour will be \$5.00, with everyone paying for their own lunch.

Then on Thursday, June 6, we're looking forward to touring the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. Ginny Bowman is handling that one, so I'll let her give you the particulars.

And on Tuesday, October 29, we're rescheduling our Allegheny Cemetery walking tour. (What are the chances we'll get rained out two years in a row?

Nil, we hope!) More on this activity in the months to come.

Change #3 - We've opened a special post office box to receive money for our luncheons and our "extracurricular" events (like our Walk 'n' Talks).

On your postcard for the March 20th luncheon, you'll see a new address (ACRA, P.O. Box 5335, Pittsburgh, PA 15206-0335) which you'll use for all your luncheon reservations and the Walk 'n' Talks. (You will continue using the Gibsonia address (ACRA, P.O. Box 371, Gibsonia, PA 15044-0371) for your membership dues.)

Other news - You won't want to miss our March 20th luncheon when John Weinstein will address the state of our pension. John, as you know, is Allegheny County's Treasurer and he serves as President of the Allegheny County Retirement Board. John always comes well-prepared to answer our questions. Expect this to be a highly informative presentation.

In April (April 17), we'll learn how to save money on our electric bills! Kevin Baden, a speaker with Duquesne Light's WattChoices program, will tell us how to evaluate those electric supplier plans, energy rebates you can

qualify for, and simple ways to make your home more energy efficient.

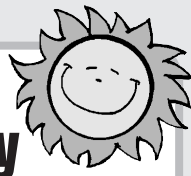
On May 15, Tim Johnson, the Retirement Office's new Executive Director, will talk about the many changes he intends to implement. I heard some of those plans at the December Retirement Board meeting; I think you'll be pleased with Tim's ideas for making the Office more responsive to retirees' needs.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our luncheon on March 20. Why not call a friend or colleague from your department at Allegheny County and invite them to come along? The topic, "The State of your Allegheny County Pension," is one in which you, I, all of us, have a vested interest.

Till then,



Thought for the day



"It is not how old you are, but how you are old."

Jules Renard, writer (1864-1910)

THE PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

Here's what I propose:

Memorial Day falls on the 27th this year. By late April we'll have an idea of how many people are interested in signing up as volunteers. We'll meet and select, say, two local cemeteries that are representative of our membership. I'll get a list of that cemetery's veterans from the wars of our generation—those in which our dads, granddads, husbands and brothers served. We won't be able to get to everybody, but we'll do as many grave sites as we can—pulling weeds and cutting back the grass from the grave stones, and placing a small flag on each site.

Now, will you sign up and be a President's Project volunteer? We'll go out the week prior to Memorial Day—the week of May 20. It will only take four hours of your time—or eight, if you're willing to sign on for two days. It's the least we, Allegheny County Retirees, can do to show our respect for those who fought for the liberties we all enjoy today.

By Pat Cray



For several years I've been exploring volunteer possibilities that would provide Allegheny County retirees an opportunity to show their respect and gratitude to our war veterans. Well, last year I was tending a relative's grave over at Jefferson and noticed that in my immediate area there were so many grave stones of vets from WWI, WWII, the Korean War and Vietnam that were neglected and badly overgrown. I've learned that many cemeteries that used to place flags on service members' graves, no longer do.

TIMOTHY JOHNSON

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RETIREMENT BOARD

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When asked what he did in his leisure time -- golf? bowling? hiking? -- he responded, "Fundraising"! He agreed that was somewhat "unusual" and proceeded to explain his interest in helping build a new church in Ohio Township. As a deacon in the church, he led the first stage of the campaign to raise \$1 M! His fundraising experience dates back to 1986 when he was Capital Campaign Counsel for the U. S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and successfully directed the campaign to raise \$28 million to build Alumni Hall.

Prior to that, Mr. Johnson earned a B.S. in Business Administration at Duquesne University, and subsequently, an M.S. in Organizational Development at Robert Morris College. That education paid off in many ways! As Administrative Services Director for Allegheny County, he was responsible for overseeing purchasing, elections,

property assessments, computer services, and facilities management which included a \$25 million budget. Additionally, he was V. President for Finance and Development at the Urban League, supervising the finance and development department of that human service agency, with the mission of enabling African-Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity power and civil rights.

Mr. Johnson's work experience and community involvement span a spectrum of talents and interests from monitoring municipal pension plans to managing a \$12 million reassessment program. You may think, "What does he plan to do for retirees?" Ask him! He will be the speaker at the ACRA luncheon meeting, Wednesday, May 15, ready to share his expertise on pension plans and financial responsibility.

By Mary Nolan, S.C.

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

walk 'n talk



Join us **Thursday, June 6, at 10:30 AM** to explore the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. We will have a 45 minute guided tour over easy terrain. The Garden is located 20 minutes from Downtown off Interstate 376 (formerly the Parkway West). Detailed directions will be provided for those who register. The Garden entrance is at the former Settler's Cabin Park Maintenance Barn. We will be selecting a restaurant for lunch after the hike, optional. The cost for the hike will be \$5.00 and everyone will pay for their own lunch. Mark your calendar, watch for the postcard with details about registering, and look for a warm, sunny day!

By Ginny Bowman

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION (ACRA)

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL/CALENDER YEAR 2012

ACRA began the fiscal/calendar year on January 1, 2012 in a strong financial position with total assets of \$45,203 and ended the year on December 31, 2012 in an even stronger position with total assets of \$52,691, an increase of \$7,488.

The bulk of the organization's assets are now held in an variable interest rate money market account. At the beginning of the year, money was invested in both certificates of deposit and a money market account and had a total value of \$39,021. As of December 31, 2012 the money market account had a total value of \$40,819 an increase of \$1,738. This included deposits of \$1,580 and total interest of \$218, roughly a 0.56% interest rate.

Total checking account deposits and credits for the year were \$30,086 and total debits and expenses were \$26,537, for a difference of \$3,549.

Our largest source of income, membership dues, was \$21,745. Other

income sources were luncheon fees (\$6,949), donations (\$997) and credits and other (\$395). Dues income included payments in November and December for 2013 memberships. A more accurate figure for 2012 membership dues is \$16,500 (1100 members x \$15).

Our major expenses were the printing and mailing of our newsletters, meeting notices and membership renewal letters (\$8,324); luncheon and meeting expenses, which includes luncheon

subsidies, speaker fees, door prizes and audio-visual rental fees (\$11,275); bulk mail postage (\$5,000) and other expenses, ie., supplies, insurance, donations, telephone, etc. (\$1,938).

The entire community of Allegheny County retirees can be thankful for the strong support of our membership, as this enables ACRA to continue to represent the interests of our retirees and to provide relevant retiree information through our newsletters.

ASSETS

	AS OF 12-31-2012	AS OF 1-1-2012	DIFFERENCE
MM ACCOUNT	\$40,819	\$39,021	\$1,798
CHK ACCOUNT	\$8,821	\$5,272	\$3,549
USPS ACCOUNT	\$2,991	\$850	\$2,141
PETTY CASH	\$60	\$60	-
TOTALS	\$52,691	\$45,203	\$7,488

Ronald Chleboski, ACRA Treasurer