



Allegheny County

September 2016

Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 112615 • Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215 • 412-539-9307 • ACRetirees.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Roger Westman, *President*
Guy Tumolo, *Vice President*
JoAnna McQuaide, *Secretary*
Pete Schepis, *Treasurer*

Janet Norkus, *Assistant to the Treasurer*
Ginny Bowman, *Editor*
Angela Conte

Marge Lubawy
Joseph Scorpion

FINANCIAL ADVISORS: NEW RULES

By Guy Tumolo

If you use a financial advisor to help you with your retirement investments, you should know of new Federal regulations being promulgated to help the investor receive priority on the return from their investments. The July 2016 edition of Consumer Reports has a succinct presentation of the requirements facing financial advisors. The following is the text of that article. Consumer Reports has been working to promulgate these new standards.

"A person investing for retirement could hold on to tens of thousands or more, thanks to a new rule from the

Department of Labor. It requires all financial advisers who provide investment guidance on retirement accounts to act in their clients' best interest. You might think this was always the case - but remarkably, that's not true. Some types of advisers, called fiduciaries, do indeed have to put a client's financial interests above their own. The products that certified financial planners, registered investment advisers, and certain other professionals can recommend must be, not only a good fit for clients, but also cost-effective among comparable choices.

continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATES

September 21 Luncheon

The Pittsburgh Zoo... More Than a Place to See Animals!
Len Bach

September 29

Walk 'n Talk

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden
Guide: Lynn Heckman

October 19 Luncheon

Interesting Stories About Allegheny County
Lenn Barcousky

November 16 Luncheon

What's New in Medicare?
Barbara Veazey

December 14

Christmas Party

YOUR PARTICIPATION NEEDED

Your Retirees Association needs your help to continue working on your behalf. Board elections are coming up in November. Please seriously think about giving a small portion of your time for the next two years. There are opportunities to serve on the Board, opportunities to sponsor luncheon speakers, and

opportunities to arrange social events.

The Board meets approximately 8 - 9 times a year. Members conduct the business of your Association e.g., pay bills, secure meeting places, approve programs to be offered, send out meeting notices and the

By Guy Tumolo

newsletter, etc. - all those little things that receive little notice but are necessary for the Association to survive. Please step up and run for membership on the Board. There will be openings for Board officers and members.

continued on page 2

FINANCIAL ADVISORS continued from page 1

But other advisers – such as stock brokers who work on commission – have merely been required to recommend ‘suitable’ investments. That means they could suggest options that suit a client’s needs and goals but may have high commissions or fees. The Department of Labor says that when advisers pick those types of investment products for their clients, they reduce their clients’ return (and pad their own pockets) by an average of 1 percent per year. That might not sound like much, but it adds up to about \$17 billion annually.

Under the new rule, which goes into effect by January 2018, all financial advisers, whether

fee-only or commission-based, will have to adhere to the same ‘fiduciary rule.’ Those who don’t can be held accountable through breach-of-contract law suits and other safeguards. . . .”

Then there are those who oppose the call for all investment advisers to conduct themselves in accordance with fiduciary principles. The following is an article from the April 29, 2016 issue of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

“The GOP-controlled House voted along party lines Thursday to reject new Obama administration rules requiring stricter standards for brokers regarding retirement investments.

The 234-183 vote was driven by Republicans who warn they will limit the options available to investors and could cause brokers to abandon retirement savers with smaller accounts. The new rules require brokers to act as so-called fiduciaries that put their clients’ best interests first, rather than steering them toward investments with higher fees for the broker. The White House has vowed to veto Thursday’s measure.”

If you have a financial advisor, you might want to get his/her stance on how they approach their job.

PARTICIPATION NEEDED continued from page 1

You can also help by recommending programs for the luncheons. Currently there are three traditional programs each year: a session on the status of the pension plan, a session on changes to Medicare, and the Christmas Party. Please provide ideas on types of programs and suggest speakers the

membership might enjoy. So far this year we have had three special events recommended by members, with two planned for the Fall. Suggest a fun activity to share with your friends and Association members.

Please step up and see a Board member at a luncheon, or drop

a note to ACRA, PO Box 112615 Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215 or leave a voicemail at 412 539 9307. Come to a Board meeting which are usually held at 10:00 a.m. prior to the luncheon meetings.

GET ACTIVE! ENJOY LIFE!
VOLUNTEER FOR ACRA!

TWO IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Retirement Board of Allegheny County (RBAC)
412.350.4674

Call for questions about your pension or life insurance.

Allegheny County Retirees Association (ACRA)
412.539.9307

Call for questions about your membership, luncheons or other activities.

A PERFECT PICNIC

Photos by Michele Lucas

About 40 ACRA members and friends enjoyed the June 22 picnic in West Mifflin Park. The food was delicious! Bocce and ladder ball got folks moving!



L to R: Marge Lubawy, Cassie Brandon



L to R: Sue Thomas, Ed and Mary Lou Kosis, Maxine Roberts, Sandy Rizzo

ACRA MEMBERS GET A CHANCE TO REVISIT THEIR YOUTH

By Marge Lubawy Photos by Angela Conte



On May 24, ACRA members visited the Senator John Heinz History Center and took a guided tour of the Toys of the '50, '60s and '70s. As they moved through the decades of displays of toys, games and books, comments were heard such as, "Oh, I had one of those when I was a kid," and, "My children played with those." They even got a chance

to be a kid again and try their hands at the Hula Hoop and play with Nerf balls and Slinky. Everything from cowboy/girl guns and holsters from the '50s, to Barbie dolls from the '60s to Rock 'em Sock 'em Robots from the '70s were included in the collection. Even Gumby and Mr. Potato Head were there. And, old television sets were

playing the children's programs and commercials we remember from those days. On entering the last room, an arcade, they were given tokens to play the pin ball and video games. Some members were quite good at pin ball and Pac Man. After the tour, guests were free to explore the other interesting exhibits at the History Center.

Current ACRA members will receive an invoice for 2017 dues in November.

If you are not an ACRA member, join now to receive quarterly newsletters, voting privileges, and notices of luncheons and other special events.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION - Only 2017

Please complete and mail this application with your dues. Please print clearly.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Department Retired From _____

Annual Dues: \$15.00 Optional Donation _____ Total _____

**PLEASE ENCLOSE CHECK AND MAIL TO:
ACRA, P.O. Box 112615, Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215**

IN MEMORIAM: ROGER CHARLES WESTMAN

JUNE 2, 1945 - JULY 4, 2016

Roger Westman suffered respiratory failure on July 4 and ACRA lost its leader and inspiration. Roger assumed the leadership of ACRA at the end of 2015 when Past President, Pat Cray, moved away. He began his first term as President in January, having become active with ACRA soon after his retirement from the Health Department in 2008. Roger shared his vision for ACRA with Board members and he can be credited with a stronger ACRA today.

Roger knew since his college days that he wanted to work in the environmental arena. This was in the early 70's when the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act were passed and environmental programs were rapidly changing. He earned a Chemical Engineering degree at Northeastern University

and a Ph. D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Kentucky, specializing in both air and water pollution control. He began his work as an air pollution episode officer at Allegheny County Health Department in 1974 and was promoted to Manager of the entire Air Quality Program in 1994. Roger led national, regional, and local efforts to improve the environment. His office was full of awards and recognitions for his hard work and leadership. Among them was the S. Smith Griswold award from his professional organization, the Air & Waste Management Association, for Excellence in Environmental Government work.

Roger and his husband, William Stevens, were devoted members of Calvary Episcopal Church. His love of architecture led him to

work on the book, "Guide to the Art and Architecture of Calvary Episcopal Church". He was a board member of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition, the Renaissance City Choirs, and Green Burial Pittsburgh. He was active in Service to Seniors, Solarize Point Breeze, and he was a longtime member of the Sierra Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Editor's note: This memorial includes excerpts from a Remembrance by Jayme Graham, Air Quality Program Manager, Allegheny County Health Department, at the Service of Celebration for Roger's life, and from a memorial prepared by Ms. Graham and Susan S.G. Wierman, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association, for that Association's newsletter.

In Memoriam

BALDESBERGER, RICHARD	05/01/2016	HUCKESTEIN, HAROLD W	06/14/2016
BEST, JERINA F	05/01/2016	KEARNEY, AUDREY	05/09/2016
BIHARY, AUDREY A	06/25/2016	KOPOLOVICH, DAVID	05/06/2016
BOWSER, MARILEN	05/11/2016	KOLO, JEAN M	06/09/2016
BRYAN, RONALD	06/14/2016	LARKIN, PAUL D	06/15/2016
CILLO, JAMES M	07/03/2016	LESESNE, LILLIE	07/06/2016
CIPICCHIO, DAVID	05/22/2016	MOSLEY, RICHARD E	06/20/2016
CRAIG, NORBERT	05/10/2016	PARTIN, EUGENE F	05/13/2016
DAMIAN, AUGUST C	07/06/2016	RAHUBA, SHIRLEY A	06/17/2016
DAPPA, KAREN M	06/19/2016	RUFFOLO, ALICE	07/21/2016
DAVIN, MARY M	06/20/2016	SCHALLENBERGER, WENDELL F	07/10/2016
DAY, JOHN L	05/02/2016	SCHENK, LILLIAN	07/09/2016
DEGENTHER, DONALD	05/21/2016	SCIULLI, JOSEPH P	07/31/2016
DOUGLASS, EDNA M	05/18/2016	SMITH, LOIS F	07/02/2016
DRISCOLL, JEAN M	06/16/2016	WALDIER, MARY A	05/19/2016
ELION, ALEXANDER J	05/04/2016	WALKER, WALLACE	05/13/2016
FALVO, PHYLLIS L	05/20/2016	WEISS, ALBERT V	06/04/2016
FROETSCHER, JOSEPH H	07/23/2016	WILLS, ROSE C	06/18/2016
HARRIS, SYLVIA M	07/11/2016	ZEPP, MARGARET P	06/30/2016
HOLLERICH, MICHAEL T	06/14/2016		