



Allegheny County

June 2017

Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

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

Visit our website at: <http://acretirees.org>

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Message from the President

In the past few months members of your Board have worked to improve Association communication vehicles. The Association now has a vast array of instruments to communicate to and receive comments from members: telephonic voice mail (412-539-9307); e-mail (acretireeassociation@gmail.com); USPS mail (ACRA, P.O. Box 112615, Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215), the quarterly newsletter, and the updated website (<http://acretirees.org/>). A special thanks goes out to Connie Przybyla who led the effort and the board members who contributed.

Among the inquiries made through these various sources and at the luncheons were concerns regarding pension increases and insurance coverage for retirees. The new Executive Director of the Retirement Board is Walt Szymanski. He officially started April 17 and will be at our Annual Meeting in November to provide information on the status of the Pension Fund and answer your questions.

Until then I will repeat information already presented to the membership on the Retirement Board's action regarding pension increases for retirees. In 2015, the Retirement Board voted to award a \$20 per month increase effective in 2015. They agreed to consider the possibility of another increase in 2017 and 2019. A series of benchmarks were established as the basis for this consideration. In 2017, the committee established to review the possibility of the Board considering a pension increase reported that not all of the benchmarks had been achieved; therefore, there could be no consideration of an increase; but the committee recommended that the review be repeated for 2018 in addition to the one scheduled for 2019. Further information on the original Retirement Board action is available in the January 2015 minutes of the Pension Board accessible on their website. If you have any questions regarding your retirement benefits, please send them to us. We will present them to the Retirement Board for response at the November luncheon.

The insurance benefit is maintained by the County Human Resources Department. As of the writing of this message, they were preparing a RFP (request for approval) to be issued the week of May 5 for continuance of the insurance benefit.

Stay tuned for future developments.

In appreciation of all of our members, the cost of the September 20, 2017 luncheon will be \$10.00 for members.

IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MEMBER DISCOUNT, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATION IN ADVANCE OF THE LUNCHEON DATE.

At the door, the cost for members will be \$15.00. Cost to guests of members will be \$20 in advance or at the door. If you haven't been to one of our informative luncheon/meetings, this is the time you may want to join us. Come meet some old friends and maybe make a few new ones. We hope to see you there!

SAVE THE DATE

June 21, 2017

(RSVP by June 16, 2017)

Annual ACRA Picnic

(For more information go to our website:
<http://acretirees.org/>)

No Luncheon Meetings in July or August

September 20, 2017,

Member Appreciation Month

Speaker Topic:

Opiate Addiction in Allegheny County

HISTORY OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Joan McMahon

Today, we are accustomed to be able to readily access many diverse public health related services from the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). But how did the present Health Department come into existence?

The early beginnings of the ACHD can be traced back to the mid nineteenth century, when many immigrants were coming into Pittsburgh. In the growing, bustling community, sanitary conditions were primitive, the water supply polluted, and the milk unclean. All of these factors contributed to a high incidence of disease.

One of the first organized efforts to care for the sick in their homes was made by a group of Sisters of Mercy during a severe smallpox epidemic which occurred soon after their arrival in the city.

Early in 1868, concerned citizens formed a voluntary Board of Health. In 1888, this was followed by a Bureau of Health functioning within the Department of Public Safety in the City of Pittsburgh. In 1909 this Bureau of Health was abolished, and a Department of Public Health was established. This new department included five divisions: Child Welfare, Infectious Diseases, Food Inspection, Sanitation and Smoke Regulation. The Department of Public Health of 1909 was administered by a medical health officer, appointed by the mayor of Pittsburgh for a four year term.

In the following decades, the Department of Public Health attempted to keep pace with the growing health needs of Pittsburgh residents. After World War II, attention was focused on the limitations of the Department, and the city's need for more adequate public health services. In 1950, decentralization was initiated, providing for four health districts (Central, South Side, North Side and Northeast) beginning with the City of Pittsburgh being given the use of the beautiful grounds and spacious buildings of the former Marine Hospital at Arsenal Park in Lawrenceville, which became the Arsenal Health Center, headquarters for Pittsburgh's first health district.

Noting that the population was rapidly expanding beyond the actual borders of the city, and seeing that regional public health needs would be best met by integrating services for residents of the city as well as those of Allegheny County, a collaborative decision was made to proceed.

The Allegheny County Health Department was established in 1957 by a resolution of the county commissioners and with the authority granted under a Charter issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Presently, the ACHD through its five bureaus: Administration; Assessment, Statistics and Epidemiology; Community Health Promotion; Environmental Health; and Public Policy and Community Relations, by authority of Pennsylvania Act 315, the Local Health Administration Law, is charged with protecting the public health of 1.2 million Allegheny County residents.

Milestones achieved by the ACHD include:

- **1960** - Completing the nation's first polio vaccination program
- **1970** - Implementing use of a county-wide plumbing code
- **1972** - Crafting comprehensive air quality regulations
- **1974** - Launching the Women, Infants, Children Nutrition Program (WIC)
- **1985** - Initiating the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project
- **1992** - Completing a Medicare Study on flu shots which was instrumental in making the flu vaccine a Medicare benefit
- **1996** - Meeting nationwide air quality standards at all monitoring sites
- **1999** - Winning a national award for a poster campaign promoting proper, healthful handwashing techniques
- **2013** - Receiving recognition for meeting national standards and being "Public Health Ready" from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

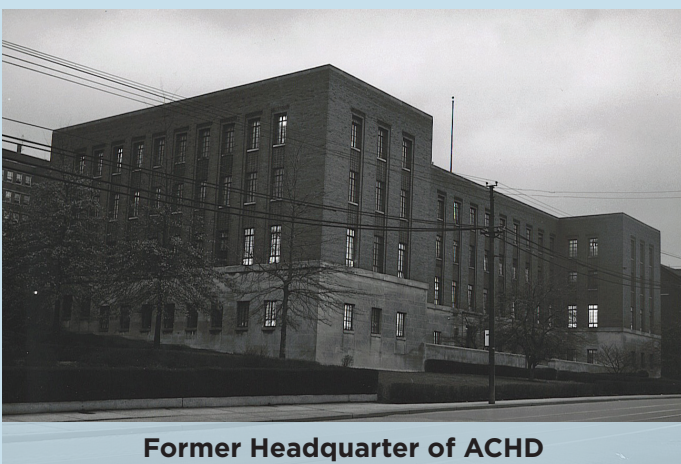
For more than 50 years, through its many diverse and innovative programs, such as "Live Well Allegheny" launched in 2014, the Allegheny Health Department continues in the tradition of the region's earliest public health pioneers-----to constantly improve and safeguard the health of all residents.

Sources:

<http://www.achd.net/bureaus.html>

Allegheny County Health Department 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. July 2015 (rev. September 2016).

(Unpublished) Application for NLN Accreditation. ACHD Bureau of Public Health Nursing. Wilda Camery, Chief. September 1, 1968.



Former Headquarter of ACHD

RECAP OF ACRA SPEAKERS By Connie Przybyla

ACRA holds seven luncheon meetings a year. Please join us for some good food, friendly camaraderie with other Allegheny County retirees and maybe learn a thing or two at the same time.



Ray Diehl



Baruch Hyman

The ACRA March speaker was **Baruch Hyman**, Proprietor of Crown Antiques & Collectibles (<http://crownantiques.com/>). Members were encouraged to bring their valuables to the luncheon where Mr. Hyman assessed the value of the various items.



Mary Bach

The ACRA April speaker was **Mary Bach**, Consumer Advocate, and Chair of the AARP Pennsylvania Consumer Issues Task Force (<https://twitter.com/mbachadvocate?lang=en> . As an advocate she disseminates AARP’s strategic messages about fraud against older consumers. Ms. Bach spoke on “Are You Getting What You Pay For.”



Off. Mike Spagnoletti



The ACRA May speaker was Senior Patrol Officer **Mike Spagnoletti**, from the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Division of the Allegheny County Police Department (<https://www.facebook.com/AlleghenyCountyPolice/>). He has spent 30 years in law enforcement as a military police officer, municipal police officer and currently as a county police officer. Officer Spagnoletti spoke on personal identification safety and senior personal safety

For information about upcoming luncheon meetings go to the ACRA website <http://acretirees.org/even-categories/luncheons/>.

TREASURER’S REPORT by Janet Norkus

The Audit Committee, composed of Tom Kelly and Gary DiCroce, met with Janet Norkus and Pete Schepis to review the ACRA 2016 bank statements and compared the statements to the 2016 invoices. The committee found everything to be in order. Tom Kelly delivered the report at the Board meeting of February 15. The following is the Treasurer’s report for Fiscal year 2016.

Beginning Balance January 1, 2016\$54,259.69
Income 2016\$31,061.23
Expenses 2016\$31,169.07
Ending Balance December 31, 2016\$54,151.85



IN THE SPOTLIGHT by Connie Przybyla

Bob Robinson-Dassel retired in 2013 from Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Department as a Juvenile Probation Supervisor.

Bob is into racing Dragon Boats and coaches the "Pittsburgh Paddlefish" team! Dragon boating is twenty paddlers, blades ripping through the water, synchronized with a drummer pounding out the rhythm, or is that the dragon's heartbeat?

Some of his team have paddled in the World Championships and have represented Team USA, and Team Puerto Rico, winning silver and bronze medals. The average team age of Bob's team is around 60, with an age range from 19 (a CMU student) to several 75 year olds. Bob and his team race against teams more than half their age. The Pittsburgh Paddlefish team's fitness and experience keeps them in the game most of the time. Bob said he often remarks that if they were to race teams, man for man, and age for age, they would kick butt.

Bob also rides his motorcycle with the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Club. Way to stay young Bob!!



Bob Robinson-Dassel leading his team

In Memoriam

Barthen, David E.....	2/16/17	Leonard, Alexander	1/10/17
Carulli, Carmen A.	1/13/17	Luisi, Jennie R.....	2/12/17
Channas, Rose.....	1/10/17	Mundy, William J	3/11/17
Charles, Irene.....	3/21/17	Rush, Joann M.....	1/20/17
Gilbert, Myra J.....	1/15/17	Storm, Muriel F.....	1/18/17
Klemash, Helen.....	1/7/17	Zampini, Josephine A.....	1/5/17
Kreiling, Katherine E.....	1/7/17		

***As provided by the Allegheny County Retirement Board**

GUEST ARTICLES

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit your article by e-mail to concon138@comcast.net

We will be highlighting different Allegheny County departments in future issues. If you would like to write an article about your former department, please email Connie Przybyla at concon138@comcast.net

We will be spotlighting members and their hobbies/talents. If you have a hobby or talent you would like to share please email Connie Przybyla at concon138@comcast.net