



# Allegheny County

September 2017

## Retirees Association

# NEWSLETTER

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

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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## Message from the President

Hello to all Allegheny County retirees! This issue of the ACRA Newsletter is being sent to all County retirees whose address has been provided.

The pleasant question confronting your Board of Directors is, "Where do we go next?" That's up to you. If you aren't a member, join and enjoy activities with your former co-workers. Members give us ideas so that we can plan events of interest. This year members have recommended great luncheon speakers and interesting outings. We went behind the scene at PNC Park, had heirlooms valued by an expert appraiser, learned personal safety tips and consumer awareness from law enforcement and AARP speakers. There was a picnic in June; and there will be a holiday party in December. Coming up are speakers on the opiate addiction crisis, Pittsburgh architecture, our pension system and Medicare changes. With the help of our membership we have tried to provide a variety of speakers and activities to enhance your enjoyment of retired life. The opportunity to meet with old friends and talk about yesterday, today and tomorrow has been especially enjoyable. If you aren't yet a member, join by filling out the application form in this newsletter or go on our web site. If you are a member, join in the activities and let us know of speakers and activities you think others would enjoy. We are working on next year's program and would appreciate your input.

On the business side of the association ledger there will be an election of officers for a two-year term with the results to be presented at the annual meeting in November. All retirees who are members of ACRA are eligible to run. The offices are: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. If you are interested in running for one of these offices, contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ginny Bowman, through our email address [ACRetireeAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:ACRetireeAssociation@gmail.com).

Just a reminder that our annual meeting in November, not only will have the election results, but a representative from the Allegheny County Retirement Board to speak about the plan and answer your questions. Hope to see you soon!!!!

Calling for nominations for

**President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.**

If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, email ACRA at

[ACRetireeAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:ACRetireeAssociation@gmail.com)

## PENSION FUND FACTS

The following information is taken from a monthly report prepared by the Office of the County Controller and presented to the Allegheny County Retirement Board.

Report period: January 1 through May 31, 2017 (all figures unaudited)

**NET POSITION BEGINNING OF YEAR ..... \$857,769,564**

**EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS ..... \$12,714,472**

**EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION ..... \$12,677,864**

**INVESTMENT AND  
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME. .... \$50,652,767**

**Total increases. .... \$76,054,103**

**BENEFIT PAYMENTS ..... \$39,411,459**

**SALARIES, ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS,  
REFUNDS AND OTHER COSTS ..... \$3,036,767**

**Total Deductions ..... \$42,448,226**

**NET POSITION MAY 31, 2017 ..... \$891,366,441**

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 20, 2017**

**MEMBER APPRECIATION MONTH**

Speaker Topic: Opiate Addiction in Allegheny County  
**FOR ACRA MEMBERS THE COST FOR LUNCH IS \$10 IN  
ADVANCE AND \$15 AT THE DOOR. COST OF LUNCH FOR  
GUESTS IS \$20.**

**October 12, 2017**

Wigle Whiskey Distillery Tour

**October 31, 2017 (PLEASE NOTE DAY/DATE CHANGE)**

Speaker Topic: Anticipating the Future: Pittsburgh  
Architecture in the Twentieth Century

**November 16, 2017**

Speaker Topic: Retirement and Medicare Updates

**December 13, 2017**

Annual ACRA Holiday Party

# HISTORY OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY JUVENILE COURT/PROBATION

by Connie Przybyla

The Mission of Allegheny County Juvenile Probation is to reduce and prevent juvenile crime; promote and maintain safe communities; and improve the welfare of youth and families who are served by the Court.

In 1933 the Juvenile Court Law of Allegheny County was created to provide citizens of Allegheny County the authority to establish a Juvenile Court dedicated to exclusively help children. The Honorable Gustav L. Schramm was the first presiding judge of Juvenile Court of Allegheny County in 1934. That same year a competitive examination for prospective Probation Officers was developed to insure that trained and qualified workers handle children's cases.

The Juvenile Court Building at 3333 Forbes Avenue was dedicated in 1937, where Juvenile Court/Juvenile Probation remained until 2000 when they moved to the Family Court Facility located in the old Allegheny County Jail building in downtown Pittsburgh.

The age of children subjected to the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court was raised from 16 to 18 in 1939. The act was amended to expand the definition of delinquency to include children who were chronically truant from school, habitually disobedient, and repeatedly conducted themselves in a manner that endangered their own morals or health or the health or morals of others.

Juvenile Probation began expanding/de-centralizing probation services in 1968. That year the first community based probation office opened on the Northside. A second community based probation site opened in 1972 on Southside. 1974 brought seven more community based probation sites in operation for a total of nine. The Juvenile Probation Department added a Drug & Alcohol Unit, which provides intensive supervision, education and assessment of drug and alcohol involved youth in 1984 and a Special Services Unit which supervises and provided specialized treatment for adjudicated sex offenders was created in 1985.



**Judge Gustav L. Schramm, first Juvenile Court Judge in Allegheny County and youth.**

The Home Detention/Electronic Home Monitoring Program (EHM) has been in existence since 1979 and 1985 respectively. The EHM program provides the Court and Probation Officers an alternative to secure detention that still assures the protection of the youth and the community.

The Community Intensive Supervision Program, known as CISP, was created in 1990 and operated in three City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods, Homewood, Hill, and Garfield. It has since expanded to six sites, the three original and sites in McKeesport, Northside and Wilksburg.

In 1994 Allegheny County instituted a school-based probation services in two City of Pittsburgh schools, Peabody High School and Rezinstein School. Currently the Probation Department has 30 Probation Officers in schools throughout Allegheny County.

With the passage of Act 33 in 1995 Balanced and Restorative Justice (Community Protection, Victim Restoration, Youth Competencies) became a cornerstone of Allegheny County Juvenile Probation under the leadership of the then Director, James Rieland. The department became known as a leader throughout the country in the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) initiative.

In 2010 Pennsylvania launched its Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). JJSES seeks to reduce harm to the community by applying the best known research to the principles and goals of BARJ by using actuarial assessment tools, cognitive behavioral interventions and performance measures. The success of JJSES is determined by how it improves the department's ability to achieve the BARJ goals.

Currently, the department has a staff of approximately 270 and processes roughly 3500 referrals each year. The most recent statistics indicate that 90% of youth successfully complete their supervision without a new offense.



**Alice B. Montgomery, First Chief Probation Officer in Allegheny County.**



**Late 1930's - Juvenile Court Building, 3333 Forbes Avenue, Pgh., PA 15213**

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

by Mary Lou Kosis

Hello Fellow Retirees,

I have been asked to tell you a little bit about my hobbies. I am a retiree of the ACHD where I worked for 31 years as a nurse until my retirement in 2004. Life after retirement has not been boring as I have developed many hobbies and interests over the years, beginning while I was working.



One of my favorite hobbies, which I have enjoyed over the past 48 years, is growing and cultivating orchids. There are over 30,000 species of orchids. They are considered to be one of the few oldest flowering plant groups on this earth. A lot of time can be spent studying these fascinating plants. My other big hobby right now is quilting, which I began to do shortly before retiring. Not being a traditional quilter, I try to incorporate lots of embellishments into my projects. There are always so many exciting activities happening in the quilting world, and I have had the opportunity to make many new friends.



**Mary Lou Kosis and her husband, Ed**

I am enjoying what I do and often wonder how I found time to go to work. My best advice is keep busy and learn new things. This is the only life you get, make the most of it.

## WIGLE WHISKEY TOUR

ACRA is sponsoring a tour of the Wigle Whiskey Distillery (2401 Smallman St.) on Thursday, October 12, 2017. Tour includes welcome cocktail, history of the Whiskey Rebellion and a tour of the distillery. Cost of tour is \$15 and is to be paid in advance to ACRA. SPACE IS LIMITED. You MUST RSVP by email to ACRA at [ACRetiree@gmail.com](mailto:ACRetiree@gmail.com) no later than October 5, 2017. For more information visit the ACRA website.





## PNC TOUR by Pete Schepis

I'm sure the great majority of us have had the pleasure of seeing a ballgame at PNC Park, but ACRA's tour on May 24, 2017 gave a group of us access to areas fans are not afforded. Led by our tour guide, former Allegheny County Juvenile/Adult probation employee, Ron Seyko, we were able to experience the ball park from the inside.

The trip started in a memorabilia room where Ron reviewed the history of the Pirates from their beginning in 1878. Using photos and various memorabilia Ron walked us through the 131 year history of the Pirates. Because the Pirates were out of town, we were able to tour the locker room. It doesn't resemble the locker rooms we knew in high school. It's more a living room with all the amenities of home. From there we moved to the in-door batting cage and then proceeded into the Pirates dugout. The field takes on a different look from the dugout. The ground level angle made the field seem larger and gave you an idea of how far it is to throw from right field to home plate. We then went upstairs to the press box. Those guys have a great view. We finished our tour at the club level. If you ever get a chance to see a game from the club level, take it.

Ron not only provided insight in to history of the Pirates but entertained us with an array of interesting Pirate stories. It was an enjoyable morning and well worth the trip.



ACRA group before the start of tour



ACRA members sitting in the Pirate dugout



Tour Guide & Allegheny County Retiree, Ron Seyko



ACRA members learning the history of the Pirates

## ACRA MEMBERS ENJOY A PICNIC IN THE PARK by Marge Lubawy

It was a good day for a picnic when ACRA members gathered at West Mifflin Community Park on June 21. The rain held off until everyone had a chance to catch up with former colleagues and enjoy some good food and conversation. The bocce players demonstrated the skills of the game while others had fun playing the ladder game and just talking with fellow county workers whom they may not have seen in a while. The outdoor setting was perfect for a change in pace from our monthly lunches. With the success of our third annual picnic, we look forward to continuing the event in the future.



ACRA members arriving at picnic



Members have a great time at the picnic



Members enjoying fellowship



ACRA Members

## AS FALL APPROACHES SO DOES FLU SEASON by Joan McMahon

The shorter summer days with leaves beginning to change from bright green to a kaleidoscope of colors is a sure sign that fall is approaching and with fall comes the flu season, in our area generally late October through March. Why should we retirees be concerned about the flu? The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that people 65 years of age and above are at greater risk of serious complications from the flu even in mild flu seasons. CDC studies have indicated that in recent flu seasons, some 54% to 70% of flu-related hospitalizations have occurred in this population, with some 71% to 85% of flu-related deaths occurring in this age group.

### What is the best way to avoid getting the flu?

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including a nutritious diet, proper rest and regular exercise, are very important. However, getting an annual flu shot is the first and best way to protect yourself from the flu. A yearly flu shot is necessary because each year the flu vaccine is re-formulated to be effective against the flu viruses which research indicates are to be most common in the current upcoming season. As with all vaccines, the flu vaccine is not 100% effective, but even if it does not totally prevent the flu, it can lessen the severity of symptoms in those who have been vaccinated.

### What flu vaccines are available for seniors?

Injectable vaccines are recommended for seniors. There are several variations of these vaccines, including three component formulations containing two A strains, and one B strain, as well as, four component vaccines which contain two A strains and two B strains. Additionally, in recent years, a "high dose" flu vaccine has been developed specifically for people who are 65 years of age and above.

### Are there risks of a vaccine reaction?

With any medicine, including the flu vaccine, there is a chance of a reaction. These reactions are usually mild, such as soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given. Most people who get a flu shot do not have any problems with it.

### Is there anyone who should not get a flu shot?

Yes, those who have had an allergic reaction to a previous flu shot; persons who have an allergy to any component of the vaccine; people who have had Guillain-Barre Syndrome; and anyone who is ill at the time the vaccine is to be given.

### When is the best time to get a flu shot?

In our area, late September and early October are considered optimal times, since it takes approximately two weeks for the vaccine to stimulate protective antibodies. However, you may receive a flu shot at any time, even when the flu illness has actually appeared in the community.

**Keep in mind that, as with any health-related issue, it is best to discuss flu immunization with your doctor in making the decision as to which vaccine is most suitable for you.**

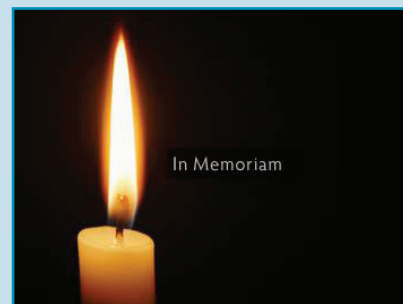
**For further information visit CDC's website at**

**[www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)**



## In Memoriam

ANGELICI, ANNA MAE .....	6/14/2017	GROVER, SERAPHINE.....	6/18/2017
BEDNAR, EMMA L .....	7/22/2017	HAMILTON, KATHLEEN C .....	4/8/2017
BEST, RONALD B .....	5/6/2017	MAGLIOCCA, MARGARET L .....	4/21/2017
BILLY, PERCIOUS .....	4/7/2017	MARGOLIS, ELLEN F .....	5/17/2017
BOLIN, GERALD L .....	7/7/2017	MELLETT, DANIEL .....	4/25/2017
BOYD, ERVIN L .....	4/2/2017	MILLER, DAVID J .....	4/2/2017
BRISINI, LAWRENCE J .....	5/5/2017	MURRAY, SADY H.....	4/1/2017
BRUNO, WILLIAM A.....	6/16/2017	NORKUS, ERNEST .....	5/6/2017
BURCHFIELD, JOHN M .....	6/2/2017	PATTERSON, CAROLINE .....	6/13/2017
CARVER, DOROTHY M .....	5/19/2017	SCHMIDT, DONALD J .....	4/12/2017
CHRISTOFARO, DOLORES .....	6/22/2017	SHIEL, DANIEL .....	5/24/2017
CONNER, CHARLES.....	7/28/2017	SIGNORE, FRANK.....	3/17/2017
DABRUZZO, GUIDO M .....	7/20/2017	WINTERS, JAMES E .....	4/3/2017
DELUCA, WILLIAM.....	3/24/2017		
DRESSING, EDNA M .....	6/24/2017		
ERDELJAC, FRANK G.....	4/10/2017		
EVANS, VIVIAN.....	4/13/2017		
FECIK, ANNA MAE G .....	5/13/2017		
FLADING, GLORIA.....	1/14/2017		
FRIEDEMAN, DANIEL G.....	5/5/2017		
GILES, DOROTHY.....	5/2/2017		
GOLLING, GLADYS.....	5/19/2017		







# Allegheny County

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## Retirees Association

<http://acretirees.org>.

Dear Fellow Allegheny County Employee:

You are receiving a copy of our quarterly newsletter in the hopes you will consider joining the Allegheny County Retirees Association (ACRA).

You may ask, "Why should I join?" The reason is easy. The Allegheny County Retirees Association (ACRA) is an organization dedicated to improving the lives of County retirees. ACRA keeps you informed of issues before the Retirement Board that effect your pension and advocates on your behalf for continued improvements in our pension benefits.

ACRA meets for monthly luncheon meetings during the spring and fall with guest speakers and informative presentations, or sometimes, just plain old fun entertainment. In addition to the monthly luncheon meetings occasionally ACRA arranges special activities of interest to members, such as, nature walks, visits to museums, our annual summer picnic and our annual holiday party.

ACRA currently has more than 1,000 Allegheny County retirees or their surviving spouses as members.

We cordially invite you to join ACRA. Annual dues are just \$15.00 for the calendar year. Membership entitles you to quarterly newsletters, discounts for the luncheons, and entitles you to voting privileges. Please complete the registration form on the back of this flyer and mail to the address indicated on form.

We hope to see you at one of our luncheon meetings soon! Check out our website at <http://acretirees.org> for more information on ACRA.

Sincerely,

ACRA Board of Directors



# Allegheny County

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## Retirees Association

<http://acretirees.org>.

### NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Members receive newsletters, luncheon reminders, and voting privileges.

Please Print Clearly

<b>Last Name:</b>		<b>First Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>State:</b>	
		<b>Zip Code:</b> (9 digit if possible)	
<b>Telephone No.</b>		<b>Cell Phone No.</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>			
<b>Department You Retired From:</b>		<b>Year of Retirement:</b>	

**ANNUAL DUES ARE \$15.00**

Join by mailing your completed form and check made payable to ACRA  
to the following address:

**ACRA**  
**PO Box 112615**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215**