



# Allegheny County

DECEMBER 2017

## Retirees Association

# NEWSLETTER

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

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Guy Tumolo, *President*  
Pete Schepis, *Vice-President*  
JoAnna McQuaide, *Secretary*

Janet Norkus, *Treasurer*  
Connie Przybyla, *Editor*  
Angela Conte

Pamela Long  
Marge Lubawy  
Joan McMahon

## Message from the President

As we approach the end of another year many of us take time to look back to see what we have done through the previous months. Some of us have had milestones in our married life. Thanks to my family, my wife and I had a momentous fiftieth wedding anniversary. Some of us had the joyful experiences of weddings and birth of grandchildren. Maybe you hit a lottery or came away from the casino with more money than you arrived with. Some of us lost friends and relatives. OK, enough reminiscing! Let's look ahead and plan to make the most of the new year. We, here at your retiree association, will continue to bring you opportunities to enjoy your life.

Come to the Christmas Party and "rock" with Jimmy Sapienza, enjoy a great holiday meal and try your luck at the traditional raffles. Then look forward to a holiday with family and friends.

Next year join your fellow members for lunch, conversation and interesting speakers. Check out the special activities that are or will be planned and join us "on the road" for some fun. Incidentally, if you would like to suggest some activity that the group might find interesting, let us know. The Wigle Whiskey tour was suggested by a member during a luncheon.

Other things to look forward to:

The results of the election of officers. The results are reported elsewhere in the newsletter. Thanks to Ginny Bowman for chairing the Nomination Committee and Bob Meussner for chairing the Election Committee.

The findings of a committee of the Retirement Board appointed to consider the feasibility and possibility of a pension increase.

Keep up with your Retirees Association on our website and in the expanded newsletter edited very capably by Connie Przybyla and her crew.

May you enjoy the blessings of the holy holiday season and a fortuitous and healthy New Year.

## Pension Fund Facts

Report period: January 1 through October 31, 2016.

All figures are unaudited.

NET POSITION BEGINNING OF YEAR.....	\$ 821,488,203
EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS .....	\$ 26,768,836
EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS .....	\$ 26,672,296
INVESTMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS INCOME .....	\$ 46,889,530
BENEFIT PAYMENTS .....	\$ 75,612,254
REFUNDS AND OTHER COSTS .....	\$ 5,470,689
NET POSITION OCTOBER 31, 2016 .....	\$ 840,695,992
Net increase in Fund over 10 months .....	\$ 19,247,719

## SAVE THE DATE

**DECEMBER 13, 2017**

ACRA Annual Holiday Luncheon • Lunch for members and guests will be \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door

**MARCH 21, 2018**

Speaker/Topic: Judy McClelland, Alzheimer Association

**APRIL 18, 2018**

Speaker/Topic: Ed Kelemen, author of Paranormal PA

**MAY 16, 2018**

Speaker/Topic: Mary Lou Kosis - Growing Orchids

**JUNE (DATE TO BE DETERMINED)**

Annual ACRA Picnic

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

Speaker/Topic: Not Confirmed

**OCTOBER 17, 2018**

Speaker/Topic: Not Confirmed

**NOVEMBER 14, 2018**

Speaker/Topic: Retirement Board Updates

**DECEMBER 12, 2018**

ACRA Annual Holiday Party



Bob Meussner and Pete Schepis

## THANK YOU

ACRA member and veteran, Bob Meussner passed out American flags to all members attending the October meeting/luncheon to celebrate Veterans Day. The flags were supplied by the American Legion.

# HISTORY OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL by Ed Urban

The Allegheny County Jail, situated along Ross Street in downtown Pittsburgh, is actually the third lockup built by the county as a temporary holding facility. The first jail was built in Market Square in 1795. It remained occupied until 1841 when construction was completed on a new Grant Street Complex designed by John Chislett. This second set of buildings was constructed of grey sandstone that was quarried at Coal Hill, present day Mt. Washington. Tragically, John Chislett's buildings were destroyed by fire on May 7, 1882. Following the destruction of the second courthouse, Allegheny County Commissioners decided to hold a competition to design a replacement. The winner of the competition was Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson and construction of the buildings was begun by the Norcross Brothers, Richardson's construction firm of choice, in 1884.

Richardson's Jail and Courthouse literally rose out of the ashes of the previous county buildings designed by John Chislett and were built on that same ground. Bricks used in the construction of the jail were fired on site from clay pits that were discovered lying beneath the area of the previous courthouse and jail. Construction on Richardson's design began in 1884 with jail being completed first, in May of 1886. No prisoners however, were housed in the jail until September of that year so to allow the mortar to dry thoroughly. Sadly, H. H. Richardson died before seeing his work completed.

**"A dignified pile of rocks"** is how Henry Hobson Richardson once referred to his majestic buildings in Pittsburgh. He had to know when he said those words that these structures would become the most magnificent of all of his creations, and why they are now referred to as his "Masterpiece".

When first constructed, the jail was about one-half of its current size, but was enlarged between 1904-1908 to alleviate the already overcrowded conditions due to the County's booming population. The expansion plans designed by Frederick Osterling, nearly doubled the size of the jail adding an additional 390 cells.

By 1926 the jail was once again facing severely overcrowded condition and it was reported that the removal of the jail from its present site had been virtually assured as the result of a conference of the Allegheny County Planning Commission. (They had an offer from Conrad Hilton to build a hotel on the site. Cost for demolition of this massive building and Hilton finding an

alternate site let the issue drop.) Severe overcrowding continued throughout the jail's life and finally came to an end when the jail was ordered closed by Federal Judge Maurice Cohill. Until such time as a new facility could be built, the county and the jail were under the court's orders to reduce the inmate population. A reduced population cap was put in place and as a result, 27,268 prisoners were released from the Jail because of overcrowded conditions between November 1983 and April 1, 1995, when the jail finally closed.

When the jail was closed the interior was completely demolished and in the places that once held the massive cellblocks, now stands the County's Family & Juvenile Court Facility. As part of the building's adaptive reuse, a section near the Rotunda or atrium (whose open space was preserved along with its large granite pillars) was set aside to house a small museum of jail artifacts. The grand opening of the Old Allegheny County Jail Museum was held on July 12, 2005. Funding for the museum was the result of a \$100,000 grant to the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation in 2000 by the Drue Heinz Trust. The museum is highlighted by cells from both the original H.H. Richardson and Frederick Osterling designs, as well as original jail artifacts.

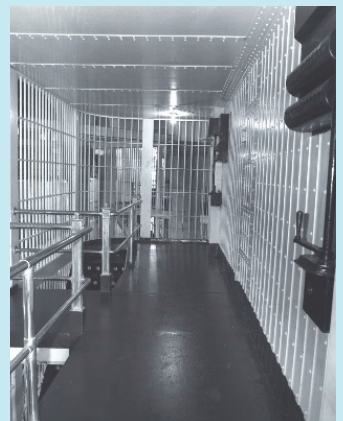
If you would like to write about the history of the department you previously worked at please email ACRA at [acretireeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:acretireeassociation@gmail.com)



**Jail Rotunda**



**Jail Shakedown**



**Jail Block Crossover**

## ELECTION OF 2018-2019 ACRA OFFICERS

by Joan McMahon

Recently ballots for the election of officers were mailed to all ACRA members. The present officers, who all graciously agreed to serve another two year term, were re-elected unopposed. They are: Guy Tumolo, President, Pete Schepis, Vice President, Janet Norkus, Treasurer, JoAnna McQuaide, Secretary

## PENSION CHECK 2018 SCHEDULE

January 25, 2018  
February 22, 2018  
March 22, 2018  
April 26, 2018  
May 24, 2018  
June 28, 2018

July 26, 2018  
August 23, 2018  
September 27, 2018  
October 25, 2018  
November 21, 2018  
December 27, 2018



## BAYERNHOF TOUR by Connie Przybyla

A group of ACRA members toured the Bayernhof Museum on August 30, 2017. The museum was the home of Charles B. Brown, III, an eccentric who had an appetite for collecting rare, authentic, antique mechanized musical instruments from the 19th and 20th century. Upon Mr. Brown's death in 1999 his will directed that his home be converted into a museum of his collection of music machines. The home is a unique blend of Mr. Brown's eclectic taste, from a hand-painted glass ceiling, to nine wet bars, to an indoor swimming pool, to an indoor cave which leads to a wine cellar, to a pool table rumored to be from the movie *The Hustler*. Our tour guide, Jim, was exceptional. Not only was he a great story teller, he actually sang for the group too.

The collection of music machines is truly amazing! It includes many antique music boxes, "monkey" organs, carousel organs, and an Encore Automatic Banjo. There is also a Mills Deluxe Violano Virtuoso which plays two violins and piano combination, and a huge Seeburg Pipe Organ Orchestra that was once used to accompany silent films. Seeing these instruments is one thing, but the real highlight of the tour is that you actually get to hear many of the music machines. I highly recommend you visit this unique one of a kind museum.



## WIGLE WHISKEY TOUR by Pete Schepis

On October 12, 2017 members of ACRA toured the Wigle Whiskey distillery in Pittsburgh. We began the tour with a cocktail from their seasonal menu. While touring the distillery members were given small samples of different types of whiskey. We ended the tour by sitting at the large tasting table and tasting two types of whiskey and one type of gin. There were samples of four organic bitters on the table to try with your samples, Rosemary Lavender, Molé, Aromatic, and Pomander Orange.

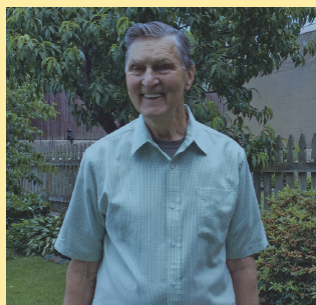
Our tour guide, Kristen, not only spoke about the grain-to-bottle manufacturing process for a variety of spirits made on site she gave us a history of the Wigle Whiskey distillery and the Whiskey Rebellion.

The Meyer's family established the distillery in 2011 which is located on Smallman Street. Today, Wigle Whiskey is the only whiskey distillery in the region and is the first distillery in the City of Pittsburgh since Prohibition. Wigle Whiskey is the most awarded craft whiskey distillery in the US by the American Craft Spirits Association.

Even if you are not a lover of whiskey, you will enjoy the overall experience of this tour and the lesson in Western PA history.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT by Connie Przybyla



**Leonard Garlicki**

After working for the County for 23 years, Leonard Garlicki retired from the Maintenance Department as a painter in 1996. He also worked as a stationary engineer at North Park and as a laborer on the road gang. Lenny was recently recognized for singing the National Anthem for the past 40 years at Lawrenceville's Arsenal Park for their Fourth of July celebration.

Lenny has also sung at the Soldier and Sailors Memorial Hall, Nied's Hotel and Restaurant, and Moondogs Pub.

Born and raised in Lawrenceville, Lenny is affectionately known as the "Lawrenceville Legend." Fluent in Polish, Lenny often sings at local weddings and funerals. In 2004,

he amazingly sang at approximately 97 funerals/weddings. His favorite song to sing beside the National Anthem is a Polish song about the Blessed Mother, *Serdeczna Mateo*.

Besides singing Lenny and his wife enjoy volunteering at the Three Rivers Arts Festival, the Pittsburgh First Night event, the Pittsburgh Marathon and blood drives. Additionally, Lenny has helped his parish raise money by volunteering at the parish bingo for the last 25 years. He enjoys making small repairs around his home, playing cards and dice games with his grandchildren, working in his vegetable garden and mowing his lawn with a push mower.

Lenny and his wife, Margaret recently celebrated their 55th anniversary on October 27, 2017. They have 5 children and 8 grandchildren.

If you have a hobby or talent you would like to share please email ACRA at [aretireeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:aretireeassociation@gmail.com)

# In Memoriam\*

Boyd, Cathy .....	10/4/2017
Bradish, Peter .....	9/10/2017
Binkney, William.....	9/15/2017
Carrick, Charles.....	10/1/2017
Chatak, Richard.....	9/18/2017
Cioppa, Clydella.....	9/15/2017
Forrest, Nancy .....	9/22/2017
Golebie, Raymond J.....	8/29/2017
Grande, Mona J .....	8/1/2017
Hays, Thornton.....	9/6/2017
Hensley (DeCarlo), Josephine.....	9/13/2017
Hopper, Joseph.....	9/24/2017
Hospodar, George.....	9/23/2017
Kieffer, Florence.....	9/9/2017
Knoebel, Anne.....	8/22/2017
McCartney, Wallace .....	9/10/2017
Meeder, Frances.....	8/12/2017
Mitchell, Catherine L. ....	9/24/2017
Salisbury, Lucille .....	8/28/2017
Sams, Richard.....	9/30/2017
Turnblacer, Linda.....	9/8/2017
White, Margaret Regina.....	9/12/2017
Zirpoli, Virginia.....	9/2/2017



\*As provided by the Allegheny County Retirement Board

**CORRECTION: Virginia Matvey was erroneously placed on list in the September Newsletter.**

# RECAP OF ACRA SPEAKERS

The ACRA September speaker was Eric G. Hulse, DrPH, MA, Manager of Behavioral Health Analytics, Office of Data Analysis, Research and Evaluation, DHS. For more information visit the following sites, <http://www.achd.net/overdoseprevention/> or <https://www.allegheycountyanalytics.us/> Dr. Hulse spoke on the devastating effect of the opioid epidemic.

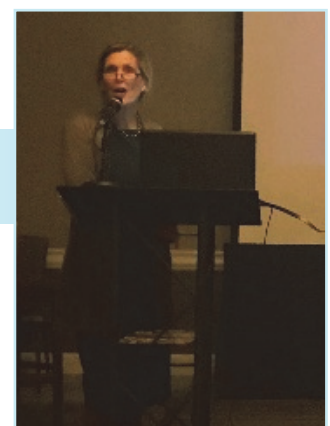
The ACRA October speaker was Louise Sturgess, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. (<http://phlf.org/>) Ms. Sturgess spoke on the future of Pittsburgh architecture in the twentieth century. It was a real must for history buffs.

The ACRA November speakers were representatives from the Retirement Board and Medicare. (<http://www.county.allegheycounty.pa.us/retirement/member-benefits.aspx> or <https://www.medicare.gov/>). The representatives answered various questions from members regarding retirement benefits.

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



**Dr. Eric Hulse**



**Louise Sturgess,  
PHLF Executive Director**



**Walt Szymanski, Manager,  
AC Retirement Office**

# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY - OASIS INTERGENERATIONAL TUTORING

An hour a week and you can brighten up the life of a child. Become an OASIS tutor and have the opportunity to give back, have fun, and make a difference. OASIS is a non-profit organization. We recruit and train older adults (50+) to tutor children in the Pittsburgh Public and Woodland Hills School Districts in grades K-4 in reading and writing. We have tutors in over 32 schools, serving over 200 students yearly. All training, materials and clearances are free. Training sessions are conducted throughout the year. For more information call John D. Spehar, Program Director on (412) 393-7648 or by e-mail at [jdspehar@oasisnet.org](mailto:jdspehar@oasisnet.org). OASIS is an Affiliate of Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.