



Allegheny County

March 2018

Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 112615 • Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215 • 412-459-7674

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

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Message from the President

As I sit down to write, the weather is exceedingly cold, and the January meeting of the County Pension Board is now history. From all indications the money managers are doing well with the funds entrusted to them. For the eleven months reported for 2017 the return has been 12.7% with the estimate that it will be over 13% by year end. Performance is 2% above the policy benchmark established by the Board. At the December meeting the contribution rate from active participants was raised from 9% to 9.5% for 2018. The increase should have a positive effect on the future actuarial calculation of the funded ratio and depletion date. The most recent Financial and Actuarial Report projected the depletion date to be 2038. The net position of the pension fund has increased \$71 million since the end of 2016.

From all indications the plan is growing at an acceptable rate and action is being taken by the Board to prepare for the future. Retirement Board meetings are held

on the third Thursday of the month and open to the public. Minutes of the meetings are available on the web site pension@alleghenycounty.us.

We offer our congratulations to Walt Szymanski, the new Retirement Board Manager, and his staff on getting the audited financials of the Plan up to date and distributed. You should have received a summary of this report in the mail. It provides a lot of interesting information about your Pension Plan.

On a sad note, it was announced that the wife of long time elected board member Ted Puzak passed away in early January. Ted is a member of our Association and has always worked for the benefit the retirees. Our deepest sympathy goes out to our friend and fellow member.

Congratulations To Our Recent Retirees

SEPTEMBER 2017

Balog, Linda
Bazari, Michael
Bytner, Robert
Ceraso, Laurie
Faherty, Thomas
Fowler, Clarence
Jenny, Joann
Kavalukas, Greg
Kelley, Elizabeth
Leech, Ron
Loos, Kathleen
Mackey, Daniel
Payne, Barbara
Ranii, Richard
Schultz, David
Sokolovich, Audrey
Stewart, Patricia

OCTOBER 2017

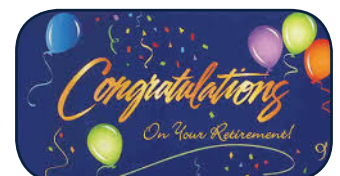
Ames, Raymond
Anderson, Michaelene
Andrews, Keith
Brady, Jeannine
Conley, Mary
Conwell, Deborah
Daniels, Edith
Gerek, Cynthia
Goldsmith, Pamela
Kissel, Louis
Mercer, Sheila
Morosko, Arlene
O'Brien Killian
Scott, Wallace
Witzel, John
Yarkosky, Ellen

NOVEMBER 2017

Bandy, Junius
Bearly, Karen
Casto, Tammy
Frances, Regina
Graner, Gloria
Hazlett, James
Herdman, Barbara
Jubeck, Jodi
Kleindienst, Margaret
Martin, Norman
Mcdermitt, Cheryl
Mcginis, Nancy
Olearchick, Anthony
Roukos, Mark
Taylor, Sandra
Woolum, Ross

DECEMBER 2017

Basher, Mohamed
Bates, Eugene
Deep, Raymond
Fetsko, Lawrence
Getty, Thomas
King, Gaynell
Love, Mary Ann
Peterson, Denise
Zugell, Mary
Zwipf-Frazier, Lauren



As provided by the Allegheny County Retirement Board

HISTORY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY POLICE

by Connie Przybyla and Senior Patrol Officer Mike Spagnoletti

On May 16, 1932 the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Honorable C.M. Barr, the Honorable William D. Mansfield and the Honorable Charles C. McGovern, Chairman, created the Allegheny County Bureau of Police for the "protection of the taxpayers' interests in the face of enlarged County operations and responsibilities."

At the request of his fellow commissioners McGovern set out to establish a police department staffed only with qualified personnel free of political influence. They saw a need for among other responsibilities, security of county buildings, safety patrol of county owned and maintained roads, security for the expanding (though still rural) park facilities and the pressing need for traffic control, especially at the North and South ends of the Liberty Tunnels and bridge, which in 1932 was the second longest vehicle tunnel in the world.

McGovern set the first criteria for the ACP; "The position of the County Police during this administration will be non-political. Their jobs will be good as long as they are good, and no influence can have them retained if they are not good."

A total of eighty men were hired as officers. Forty were designated for patrol and forty were designated for building (or inside) police. Initially patrol was relegated to foot, motorcycle or horseback.

Each new officer was outfitted with a full complement of uniforms, pea-green for summer and dark gray for winter. Mounted officers wore black leather overcoats and black leather boots. All were issued a .38 caliber revolver and carried a police baton and whistle. Those hired to guard county buildings (the Inside Police) wore dark suits with vests, ties and military style dress hats and were not issued firearms.

The first headquarters for the fledgling department was in a tight group of small austere offices on the ground floor of the County Courthouse.

The first Superintendent was William E. Rucker, at the time of his appointment he was serving as a Deputy Warden at the Western Penitentiary. He was given the title of "Captain of Police." His instructions were straightforward, build a fine and capable police department for the citizenry and taxpayers of Allegheny County.

Various substations were established in North and South Park, the County Airport and the Liberty Tunnels. Historical documents underscore that officers' annual performances were measured not on the officer's ability to enforce the law and make arrests, but rather on the officer's willingness to "be of service to the residents of Allegheny County and the many visitors who pass through the county each year."

The starting pay for an officer was \$125 per month. The work day was officially 10 hours long. Each officer received a one-week vacation that had to be taken during the winter months and not during the busy days of summer.

Along with the development of North and South Park along with the increase in commercial traffic at the

County Airport the department grew proportionally. Around 1938 an added responsibility was given to officers that of "Fire-watch" at the County's facilities and especially in the parks. The County Police were unique, they were expected to be ambulance drivers and attendants and now were required to perform fire-fighting duties.

In 1941 "Civil Service" was adopted for the ACP and guidelines were established for such actions as hiring, promotion and dismissal.

In 1948 with the beginning of construction of the Greater Pittsburgh Airport 12 officers were assigned to the airport detail.

1950 saw the Inside Police become a separate and distinct unit designated as Building Guards.

1951 the ACP Association was organized by and for officers. By 1956 the starting salary had risen to \$329 per month and the work week was reduced to 5 eight-hour days. The size of the department grew to 100 officers and branched out with a standing offer to assist other departments and to communities without police protection.

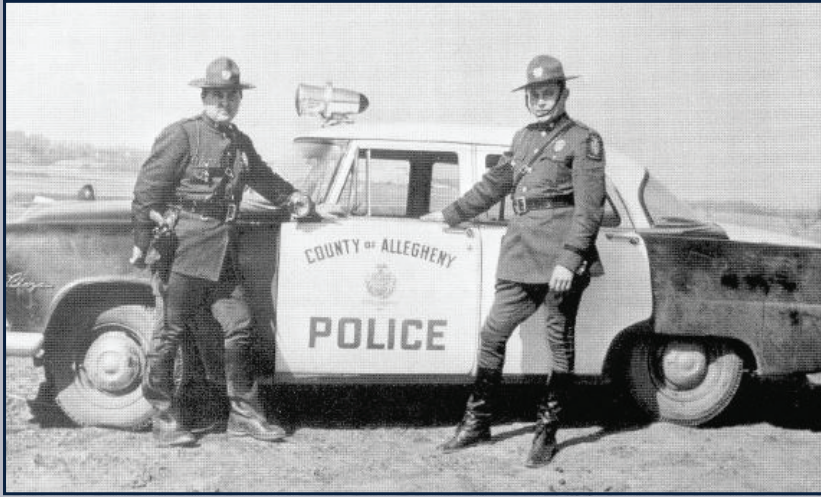
In 1972 Robert G. Kroner was appointed as Superintendent. The County Commissioners instructions to him were simple, reorganize and develop a law enforcement agency capable of meeting the rapidly growing demands of this renaissance period in policing. During this period, the agency added detectives working in general investigations, narcotics and homicide investigations along with uniformed officers patrolling the 9 county parks, the county airport and Pittsburgh International Airport. The department grew to nearly 260 officers and detectives as well as more than 50 civilian employees and county building guards. It was one of the top 5 largest police departments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Continued on the next page



Horse Training at South Park 1940's

In 1973 Patrolmen David Marshal, Martin Smith and Richard Ross, the department's first black officers were sworn in. 1979 brought another milestone with the hiring of nine female police recruits.



ACPD 1950

The succession of Superintendent was Thomas M. Fitzgerald in 1996, Thomas K. Sturgeon in 1997, Kenneth D. Fulton in 2000, Charles W. Moffatt in 2004 and the current Superintendent Coleman J. McDonough in 2016.

Over the years the following units were created: Audio Visual Forensic Unit, Mobile Device Forensic Unit, and the Motor Carrier Enforcement (MCSAP) Unit. The ACP also has a SWAT Team, EOD Unit (Bomb Squad), Hostage Negotiators, Bicycle Unit, Horse Mounted Unit, and Motorcycle Units, which are all still extensively used today.

Today there are more than 220 sworn officers and detectives, 18 civilian employees and 41 County guards who are employed by the Allegheny County Police Department. Under the leadership of Superintendent McDonough, the agency continues to look towards modernization and education for the future.

If you would like to write about the history of the department you previously worked at, please email ACRA at acretireeassociation@gmail.com

HOLIDAY PARTY by JoAnna McQuaide

On December 13, over 120 members and guests gathered together at the Greentree DoubleTree for the annual Holiday Party. We had the opportunity to see old colleagues, chat with members and meet new ones. The room was seasonally decorated, and the food was delicious. We had Chicken Romano, fish, pasta, green beans, fluffy mashed potatoes, salads, and quite an assortment of pastries, brownies and cookies for dessert. Our entertainment for the event was Jimmy Sapienza's "Two Guys Named Moe". Mr. Sapeinza is an award-winning singer who serenaded us with holiday songs and old standards from the American songbook. He even composed a "Pittsburgh Song" which was the late John Signa's, KDKA personality, favorite. The other guy named Moe played the keyboard and did Louis Armstrong imitations. Over twenty-five gifts were up for the free (to attendees) Chinese auction and there was a 50/50 raffle worth over \$150. Our best this year! We want to thank Angela Conte for organizing this festive event.

To view more photos from the holiday party, go to <http://acretirees.org/photos-of-acra-events/>



FDA APPROVES NEW SHINGLES VACCINE

by Joan McMahon

On October 20, 2017, the Food and Drug Administration licensed **Shingrix**, a more effective shingles vaccine. Shingles is a serious, often painful, common condition which anyone who has had chickenpox is at risk for contracting. When people get chickenpox as children, the varicella zoster virus lays dormant in their bodies. As you get older the immune system declines, and the virus which has been dormant can reactivate causing shingles. People over 50 are at increased risk for developing shingles. It is estimated that in the U.S. currently 1 million people get shingles every year, and that about 1 out of every 3 persons will get shingles in their lifetime.



Comparison of **Shingrix** with **Zostavax** (the previously licensed shingles vaccine):

Shingrix	Zostavax
1. Approved for adults age 50 and older	1. Approved for adults age 50 but recommended for age 60 and older by CDC
2. Non-live vaccine	2. Live vaccine
3. 97% protection for ages 50-69	3. 70% protection for ages 50-69
4. 91% protection for age 70	4. 41% protection for age 70
5. Two vaccinations separated by 2-6 months	5. One dose vaccination
6. Cost approximately \$280 total for both shots (Check with your insurance plan to determine if covered.)	6. Cost approximately \$230 (Check with your insurance plan to determine if covered.)

Shingrix is preferred by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) over **Zostavax**. Also, **Shingrix** is recommended even if you already had **Zostavax**. As with all health-related issues, discuss the shingles vaccine with your physician to determine what is best for you.

In the Spotlight – Marge Lubawy by Connie Przybyla

In 2008 Marge Lubawy retired after 12 years working for the County. At the time of her retirement she was the Senior Communication Manager for the Department of Human Services (DHS). Prior to working at DHS, she was an Assistant to County Commissioner Mike Dawida.

Following a lifetime of a love of gardening, Marge began the process of becoming a Master Gardener after her retirement. She attended 40 hours of training, took a certification test and volunteered 50 hours of service to qualify for the title. In 2011 she received the coveted Master Gardener certification. She has continued to keep up her certification by volunteering 20 hours and attending 10 hours of continuing education each year.

The Master Gardener's mission is to educate and advise the public on gardening and horticulture. In that vein, Marge has worked at the Ask the Master Gardener booth at the Three Rivers Arts Festival and worked at the Garden and Landscape Symposium at Shadyside Academy. She also participates in the yearly demonstration garden events at North Park and South Park. Marge's booth featured garlic and basil plants.

In addition to her gardening Marge belongs to three book discussion groups: the Sherlock Holmes Club, the Dickens Fellowship and her local library group. Marge also finds time to volunteer at the Duquesne Food Bank twice a month.

Marge said she hates exercise but loves to swim and tries to go swimming a couple times a week. She loves the theater, movies and all types of music, especially jazz.

Marge has a loving family of two sons, one daughter, twelve grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

If you have a hobby or talent you would like to share, please email ACRA at acretireeassociation@gmail.com



Marge Lubawy

In Memoriam*

Name	Date Of Death
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Boyd, Cathy E	10/4/2017
Romano, Richard J	10/11/2017
Snyder, Mary F	10/11/2017
Kincaid, Gene	10/15/2017
Marcoff, Marian	10/15/2017
Howard, Beverley D	10/19/2017
Eleam, Alice L	10/20/2017
Ramsey, Josephine	11/3/2017
Kirich, Jacqueline H	11/7/2017
Flynn, Ronald W	11/8/2017
Lyles, Helen E	11/17/2017
Baechtold, Bernard F	11/20/2017
Franklin, Lena T	11/24/2017
Mcchesney, Doris M	12/6/2017
Mcconnell, Diane	12/10/2017
Myers, Barbara J	12/10/2017
Holmes, Richard T	12/13/2017
Micklos, Joanne R	12/14/2017

Name	Date Of Death
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Dunlap, Mildred	12/16/2017
Perkowski, Leo V	12/17/2017
Cardello, John	12/19/2017
Tebo, Elizabeth	12/24/2017
Monardo, Pat J	12/25/2017
Cross, Marie	12/27/2017
Marsico, Ethel Mae	12/29/2017
Wyllie, John A	12/29/2017
Baird, Nancy Ann	1/2/2018
Balukin, Raymond L	1/2/2018

As provided by the Allegheny County Retirement Board



FROM THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREMENT OFFICE

by Walter Szymanski, Manager

The Allegheny County Retirement Office would like to share some information with you listed below. Please remember that if you have any questions, you can always call our office at 412-350-4674.



Life Insurance:

- The new life insurance company is The Standard. The amounts of retiree life insurance have not changed, and current retirees will be grandfathered and receive the amount they currently have. More information will be provided when available.

COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment):

- The criteria for consideration of a COLA include: Frequency, Affordability, Solvency and Discretion. COLA consideration will occur no more often than every two years. The last approved COLA was February of 2015.
- The Board appoints a committee to review pension amounts and a possible COLA increase. The Committee works with the actuary to determine benchmarks and the amount it will cost the fund.
- The 2015 COLA which was a \$20 per month increase to retirees, costs the fund \$1,000,000 a year.

Survivorship:

- Must be signed up for before retirement
- If the retiree signed up for survivorship and passes away, the spouse will need to notify the retirement office of the retiree's passing.
- The amount varies on age relationship, it can be between 5 - 30% although, the average amount of reduction is roughly 10%. The spouse will receive 50% of the retirees reduced pension. Example, the pension amount is \$2,000. The reduced pension is \$1,800.00 the survivor would receive \$900.00.
- The benefit is final upon election at retirement and can only be removed in death or divorce.
- The benefit if elected in active employment, cannot be changed passed age 50.
- If the retiree signed up for survivorship and the spouse passes away, the retiree needs to notify the retirement office of the passing. After a death certificate is received, the retiree will have their benefit amount increased by the deduction made at retirement.

Contribution Rate:

- The contribution rate was increased in 2018 from 18% to 19%. This means that active employees contributions increased from 9% to 9.5% and the County's contribution increased from 9% to 9.5%.

SAVE THE DATE

March 8, 2018

Tour of PPG Paints Arena

March 21, 2018

Speaker/Topic:

Judy McClelland, Alzheimer Association

April 5, 2018

Phipps Conservatory Tour - Spring Flower Show

April 18, 2018

Speaker/Topic:

Ed Kelemen, author of Paranormal PA

May 16, 2018

Speaker/Topic:

Mary Lou Kosis - Growing Orchids

**For more details visit our website at <http://acretirees.org/>*

To view photos from various ACRA events visit the following site:

<http://acretirees.org/photos-of-acra-events/>

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder if you have not yet paid your 2018 ACRA dues, please mail your \$15 check made payable to ACRA to the following address.

ACRA
PO Box 112615
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0215