



# Allegheny County

JUNE 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

### IT'S SUMMER! IT'S PICNIC TIME!

This year's picnic will be held in North Park at the Old Fire House near Stone Field. Since it is an enclosed building with a porch and level surroundings, the weather should not be of concern on June 14. Food and drink will be provided. Come enjoy the day with old friends; make new friends; even bring friends. The cost is only \$5 per person; but reservations are essential. We must know how much food and drink to buy.



The Newsletter on occasion also contained a chart on the condition of the Pension Trust Fund condensed from a monthly report provided to the Retirement Board by the County Controller. We remind you that you are welcome to attend any meeting of the Retirement Board held on the third Thursday of the month in the Gold Room of the County Court House at noon. It is a public meeting.

The unaudited report from the County Controller for last year shows the assets of the Fund restricted for pensions at \$936.5 million. In the previous twelve months employees contributed \$33.1 million: The County provided \$33 million; the net income from investments was \$115.4 million. The Fund paid out \$101.5 million in pensions and refunds. The Fund went up in value \$78.7 million in 2017. It was a good year.

Now sit back, relax and enjoy ACRA activities: a picnic in June, the Gateway Clipper in September, interesting luncheon speakers in September and October, the annual meeting in November, and the Christmas party in December. Hope to see you at one, some or all of the events.

Now on to the subject of our pensions. Over the past few months we have had the new manager, Walt Szymanski, speak and answer questions at our Annual Meeting. He also wrote quite a comprehensive article for the Newsletter. In response to inquiries about the effect of the new federal tax code on deductions from your pension check, those of you who have given us your e-mail address received information on how to change the amount deducted from your pension check for federal income taxes. A copy of the federal form used to effect withholding was also made available electronically. The email sent out to members and where to get the form have been included in this issue on page 3.

## PENSION FUND FACTS

The following contains information taken from the report prepared by the County Controller for the Allegheny County Retirement Board.

Report period: January 1 through February 28, 2018. All figures are unaudited.

NET POSITION BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 936,475,051
EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 7,195,642
COUNTY CONTRIBUTION	\$ 7,146,353
INVESTMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ (4,660,925)
BENEFIT PAYMENTS AND REFUNDS	\$ (17,252,787)
SALARIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ (93,066)
NET POSITION FEBRUARY 28, 2018	<b>\$928,810,268</b>

# HISTORY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY AIRPORT by Connie Przybyla



Grand Opening 1931.



The Allegheny County Airport, unchanged in outward appearance from its 1936 expansion.

In 1926 the area's air hub was the Bettis Field also known as the Pittsburgh McKeesport Airport, which was located on the Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory site in West Mifflin. In June of 1928 a \$1.5 million bond was issued to acquire land for an airport. On September 11, 1931 the Allegheny County Airport opened to much fanfare. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported, "The huge Pittsburgh-Allegheny county municipal airport, built at a cost of \$3.5 million." "was formally dedicated ... in the presence of a throng of close to 100,000 persons. ... "The greatest gathering of nationally known speed and stunt fliers, army and navy planes and commercial craft ... marked the day, with races, stunting exhibitions, parachute jumps, and formation flying filling the day's program."

The new airport covered 432 acres and had three runways. At the time the airport was the fifth busiest in the state and the largest general aviation facility in Western Pennsylvania. Shortly after the grand opening Bettis Field closed.

Stanley L. Roush designed the Terminal. Roush created a structure with white brick with touches of black, green, and silver. The Art Deco style

building had streamlined corners and a set of green and black terra-cotta planters decorated with eagles, propellers, and squadrons of planes. Many original design features remain intact, from intricate tile work to stainless steel accents and art deco lettering for the Waiting Room and Office. The original wooden benches are still in place along with the original compass set into the floor. The terminal has been described as the most perfectly preserved Art Deco airport terminal in the world.

In 1936 architect Henry Hornbostel was commissioned to make renovations to the airport. By the summer of 1936 it had long been known for the largest amount of runway paving in the world at a combined 50 miles, as well as being one of the largest fields in the world at 108

acres. The intent of the airport was to service the Pittsburgh area. Additionally, it served as a military base during World War II. Over the next twenty years air passengers rose from 7,772 in 1932 to 1.1 million in 1951.

When the Greater Pittsburgh Airport opened in 1952 commercially scheduled aviation ended at the County Airport. It then became a server of recreational and corporate aircraft.

In 1955 Clifford Ball, Pittsburgh's "Grand Old Man of Aviation" was named Manager/Director until 1958.

In 1960 there were 117,345 takeoffs and landings, that number reached a peak of 226,324 in 1970 and in 1990 the number was 201,244. In the latest statistics



This postcard, circa 1940, shows TWA airships at the gate of the Allegheny County Airport. On its last voyage, TWA Flight 3 taxied into position here; 18 hours later it crashed in Nevada killing Carole Lombard and all other passengers on board.

# HISTORY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY AIRPORT (Continued)

available 2016 saw 52,752 landings and takeoffs making it the eighth busiest airport in Pennsylvania.

Airport management switched in 1999 from the now defunct Allegheny County Department of Aviation to the Allegheny County Airport Authority, which oversees all aspects of operations at both airports.

The airport is not subsidized by county taxes; revenue is generated by fees and leases. As a Federal Aviation Administration designated reliever airport for Pittsburgh International Airport, it receives some subsidies in accordance with the airlines operation agreement. As a reliever airport it supports a high volume of business and corporate-related traffic, flight training and MedEvac.

After the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, new security

gates were installed, and the identification badge system was upgraded. Security for the airport falls under the purview of the Allegheny County Police, who maintain a small office at the airport.

Many of the area's largest corporations base their aircraft at the Airport. Businesses routinely charter aircraft, ship and receive supplies and products via the County Airport.

Flight training instructions are a vibrant part of the County Airport with the Pittsburgh Flight Training Center and the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics that offers associate degrees in specialized technology for avionics and other aviation specialties.

Airshows were held for many years at the County Airport. In the 1930s they were described as spectacular and would cause

major traffic jams in all directions. On May 12, 2017 the Wings Over Pittsburgh Airshow returned to the airport after six years.

The airport has had some Hollywood big screen moments too: Gung Ho in 1986, The Mothman Prophecies in 2002, and the 2017 film "Last Flag Flying" had scenes filmed at the airport.

The County Airport has a bright future. Development plans well underway to optimize it include a design of a runway safety area, funding of an airport master plan, a development analysis, terminal building rehabilitation, fence line and perimeter security upgrades, and various hangar improvement.

**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)**

## THE NEW TAX BILL AND YOUR PENSION

by Guy Tumolo and Pete Schepis

In response to several inquiries from members we spoke to the Director of the Retirement Board relative to any impact the new federal tax law may have on deductions from your pension.

The new federal tax law promulgated new federal withholding tables for withholding taxes from actively working individuals who receive salaries or wages. The new tables are NOT applied to your pension benefits. The amount of the federal tax deduction is based on the individual retiree submitting a W-4P form to the Retirement Office. The individual chooses a percentage or set amount of the benefit to be retained and submitted to the

federal government as federal taxes. Withholding federal tax is based on each individual's tax situation. Many retirees have elected not to have federal taxes withheld.

Given the new tax law, individuals may want to reconsider the current percentage of federal tax they are having withheld. To change the federal tax withheld a W-4P form must be sent to the Retirement Office. The form can be found on the ACRA website (<http://acretirees.org/>) under the Retirement tab. Any questions regarding completion of the W-4P form should be directed to the Retirement Office. Once completed, return form directly to the Retirement Office at the address



below. Any questions regarding the advisability of an adjustment should be directed to your tax preparer.

**Allegheny County Retirement  
Office Contact Information**  
Retirement Office  
County Office Building, Room 106  
542 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-350-4674  
Fax: 412-350-3923  
Office Hours:  
Monday thru Friday  
8:00 am – 4:30 pm





## Congratulations TO OUR RECENT RETIREES

### JANUARY

Baugh, Gwendolyn  
Brink, Rita  
Brockington, Randolph  
Domzal, Janis  
Helton, Valerie  
Honaker, Rosalind  
Kinzler, Kimberly  
Kulik, Josph  
Louis, Leon  
Mantick, Timothy  
Polischak, James  
Robinson, Daniel  
Russel, Bernard  
Seigel, William  
Yeager, Christine

### FEBRUARY

Bender, Albert  
Chapman, Dale  
Clark, Gregory  
Davis, Creety  
Davis, Diane  
Davis, Theresa  
Divecchio, Marianne  
Downey, Denise  
Elinoff, Jeffrey  
Ferguson, Ronald  
Finn, Earlene  
Garner, Marilyn  
Gladora, Thomas  
Glazar, Sean  
Grove, Janice  
Havelka, Lynn  
Heister, Robert  
Hughes, Lonnell  
Joyce, Tom  
Jubic, Mary Taylor  
Kablack, Jean  
Langbein, Paul  
Larkin, Kevin  
Lazzaro, Mark  
Lubway, Francis  
Mason, Ernest  
McGrew, David  
Milton, Deborah  
Ohanlon, Edward  
Ollison, Darwin  
Payne, Margaret  
Petrilli, David  
Preuhs, Sandra  
Schillinger, Norine  
Sieg, Kevin  
Snyder, Christopher  
Sollenberger, Barbara  
Sonetti, Richard  
Turner, Kathleen

Uziel, James  
Walker, Diane  
Womack, Karen  
Yeager, Francis

### MARCH

Barricella, D.C  
Bowman, Carl  
Cartwright, Scott  
Conley, Michele  
Hollenberger, Margaret  
Hughes, Theodore  
lanachione, Thomas  
Juristy, James  
Kail, Judith  
Keppel, Edward  
Loeb, Rodger  
Matik, Marian  
Pobicki, Mark  
Roth, Joseph  
Sankey, Brian  
Sedor, Suzanne  
Simon, Harvey  
Whitehead, Leila  
Williams, Linda  
Yagatich, Stephen  
Zembruski, Ronald

### APRIL

Altman, James  
Ardisson, Lisa  
Bungard, Maria Lynn  
Carlino, John  
Dittman, Brian  
Foy, James  
Goppman, Murray  
Green, Antonia  
Grosch, Barbara  
Helfrich, Terrence  
Jackson, Robert  
Jaworski, Donna Marie  
Konesky, Victoria  
Lane, Emanuel  
Lee, Nancy  
Lorenzi, Harry  
McKelvey, George  
McMahon, John  
McVay, John  
Odonnell, Richard  
Philbin, Margaret  
Schreiber, Denise  
Stecik, Jeannette  
Stinson, Sandra  
Wojnar, William  
Yocca, Russell  
Young, Lynn  
Zajch, Kenneth

## PPG ARENA TOUR by Pete Schepis

On March 22, 2018 the Allegheny Retirees Association members toured PPG Paints Arena (formerly known as Consol Energy Center). We discovered that PPG Paints facility is much more than seating and an ice rink. It is a museum that pays tribute to the Penguins as well as the history of hockey in Pittsburgh.



Members at tour

PPG Paints Arena was open in 2010 replacing the Civic Arena. It is a multi-purpose facility, but it is primarily known as the home of the Pittsburgh Penguins. Everything about the building features the Pens, from its hockey seating capacity of 18,087 (87 representing Sidney Crosby's number) to the 66 suites (honoring Mario Lemieux's uniform number).

Each level is packed with photos of stars of the past and present. The five Stanley Cups victories are commemorated throughout the building including a virtual display. There is an interactive exhibit that honors the 15 greatest players in Pens history, as well as a kid's zone and wall of champions.

In general, it is a pretty cool place to visit packed with eating venues and over 800 flat screen TVs. But, if you look past the food venues, TVs and giant center ice scoreboard, you will find interesting exhibits for both kids and adults, including photos and memorabilia of Penguin stars and history. Let's Go Pens!!

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



Members at tour

## RECAP OF SPEAKERS

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

The ACRA speaker, Sara Murphy, from the Alzheimer's Association, was cancelled due to severe weather conditions. The Alzheimer's Association speaker has been rescheduled for April 17, 2019.

The ACRA April speaker was Ed Kelemen. He is an author, columnist, playwright and paranormal documentarian who has written several books. Mr. Kelemen shared many interesting stories of local paranormal lore.



Ed Kelemen

The ACRA May speaker was Mary Lou Kosis. She has been an avid orchid enthusiast for the past 48 years. She discussed growing and caring for orchids. Ms. Kosis also brought several unique orchids from her personal collections for viewing.



Mary Lou Kosis

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

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT - RAY DIEHL

by Connie Przybyla

In 1996 Ray Diehl retired after 12 years working as an electrician foreman in the Allegheny County Aviation Department. Prior to working in the Aviation Department, he worked part-time as an electrician at Kane Regional Hospital.



As far back as he can remember, Ray has had a passion for cars and motorcycles. He bought his very first vehicle, a 1949 Metallic Green Ford Coup, for \$800 when he was 19 years old. Ray participates as often as he can in the Wednesday car cruise at the Sonic Restaurant in Bridgeville. He takes either his Spanish Red 1967 F85 Oldsmobile or his Tapestry Red Metallic 1978 Dodge Mangum GT. The vehicles were bought new and over the years Ray has restored both vehicles.

In restoring the Oldsmobile, Ray recalled how he took every nut and bolt out of the car and then put it back together again. In 1967 he bought the car for approximately \$2600 and in restoring it the paint job alone cost over \$4000. The Dodge was bought brand new in 1978 for approximately \$6700 and was one of only 861 made nationally.

Ray's Oldsmobile has an antique license (vehicle must be at least 25 years old), and his Dodge has a Classic license (vehicle must be at least 15 years old). Vehicles with either a Classic or Antique license are limited to 2000 miles per year. In his everyday life, Ray drives a 2002 Dodge Pickup truck or his 2011 Dodge Charger.

In addition to his love of cars, Ray loves going to stock car races and drag races. Occasionally, he even drag races in his Oldsmobile.

Ray has been married to his wife, Elizabeth, for 62 years. They have four daughters, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

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



## SAVE THE DATE

**June 14, 2018**

ACRA Annual Picnic

**September 13, 2018**

Gateway Clipper Outing

**September 19, 2018**

Member Appreciation Month

Special Luncheon Discount Price for Members

Speaker: Edd Hale

Topic: The Great Castle Shannon Bank Robbery of 1917

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

**\*There are no meetings or outings scheduled  
for July or August.**

## SENIOR JUSTICE AND WELLNESS EXPO by Connie Przybyla

On May 9, 2018, the Allegheny County District Attorney Office sponsored an expo for seniors on justice and wellness. Several justice and medical vendors were on hand to discuss issues that affect seniors. Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala, Jr. welcome the crowd of several hundred seniors to the second annual expo.



Connie Przybyla & DA Stephen Zappala

The program consisted of a panel discussion of elder law and senior justice, a live demonstration of a drone, a license plate reader and live community cameras. Additionally, there was a chair yoga session, and a gardening session.



Drone demonstration

The Senior Justice & Wellness Expo is an annual event and completely free to seniors. I left the event with a large amount of trinkets and informational pamphlets/flyers/booklets to review. I highly recommend you attend the expo next year.

## In Memoriam\*

12/4/2017	Brinker, George F.
12/11/2017	Bandy, Junius
12/13/2017	Burdulis, Ruth G.
12/14/2017	Magliocca, Margaret L.
12/14/2017	McCray, Muhammadi M.
12/15/2017	Szczepanski, Helen
12/18/2017	Nolte, Donald
12/19/2017	McConnell, Dianne Marie
12/21/2017	Micklos, Joanne R.
1/2/2018	Culhane, Mary Jean
1/18/2018	O'Donnell, Robert
1/22/2018	Jones, Bette M.
1/23/2018	Vicker, Joseph A., Jr.
1/24/2018	Sullivan, James
1/25/2018	Holbein, Kimberly A.
1/26/2018	Hausman, Ann
1/30/2018	Gladkowski, Rose D'Angelo
1/31/2018	Sullivan, Virginia
2/2/2018	Higginbotham, Donald R.
2/5/2018	Voelker, Priscilla M.
2/12/2018	Deutsch, Ronald E.
2/12/2018	O'Leary, James
2/15/2018	Poole, Pearl
2/16/2018	Scassera, Jack, Jr.
2/20/2018	Mackey, Menachem Y.
2/22/2018	Pastore, Ruth M.
2/22/2018	Kondrich, Ted
3/15/2018	Wells, Robert L.
3/15/2018	Woods, Nancy A.
3/16/2018	Lebovitz, Arthur M.
3/21/2018	Lee, Byung S.
3/21/2018	Hallinan, William F.
3/24/2018	Honohan, Maria J.
3/28/2018	Stein, Geraldine C.
3/29/2018	Durant, Eunice L.
3/30/2018	Phillips, Harold
4/5/2018	Pellecchia, Daniel
4/5/2018	Rodosky, Sophie
4/9/2018	Mantick, Timothy H.

\*As provided by the  
Allegheny County Retirement Board