



Retirees Association

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 15285 • Pittsburgh, PA 15237 • 412-459-7674

Website: <http://acretirees.org> • Email: acretireeassociation@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jack Exler, *President*
Hugh Hachmeister, *Vice President*
Kathy Burk, *Secretary*
Christine Carragher, *Treasurer*

Connie Przybyla
Donna Johnson-Smith
Eric Buncher
Sharon Silvestri

NEWSLETTER

Kathy Burk, *Editor*
Guillermo Cole, *Contributing Writer*

Message from **PRESIDENT JACK EXLER**

It is mid-January as I put pen to paper (old school) as I write my message for the March Newsletter. I am still reflecting on how much fun the ACRA Annual Holiday Party was this past December.

The turnout was fantastic with over 150 attendees. The food, games and comradery were over the top. I would like to thank the “Kane Retirees” who donated three wonderful gift baskets for the holiday auction. Also, I would like to thank 91 years young Lenny Garlicki for leading the “ACRA Board Choir” (which needed a lot of help) in holiday songs, especially the rousing rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas!

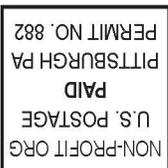
A big thank you to Marge Lubawy and Cathy Thomas who have transitioned off the ACRA Board of Directors. Marge served as the Vice-President and Cathy as the Treasurer for many years. Their dedication and energy to the organization is exemplary.

I would like to introduce the ACRA Board for 2026. A big welcome to the newest member of the board is Christine Carragher. Christine joins the board as the new Treasurer. Hugh Hachmeister is the new Vice-President, Kathy Burk is the Secretary, and Directors of the board are Connie Przybyla, Donna Johnson-Smith, Sharon Silvestri, and Eric Buncher.

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Address Service Requested

Allegheny County
Retirees Association
P.O. Box 15285
Pittsburgh, PA 15237



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We are in need of one of our members to fill the remaining term of Hugh Hachmeister. The term is for the rest of this year 2026. So, if you are interested in joining an amazing group of individuals to help plan programs and outings, please reach out to me or any other of the board members of your interest.

Looking forward to the exciting speakers, programs and outings in 2026. Please check out the ACRA Website: <http://acretirees.org> for a complete list. I am looking forward to the history of National Record Mart: Music Made in Pittsburgh by Erik Selinger.

As always, I look forward to seeing and talking to you. For our members who live out of town and are planning a visit to Pittsburgh, please try to make one of the ACRA's programs and reconnect with fellow Allegheny County Retirees. We would love to see you!

Please stay well,

Jack Exler
President

An enjoyable time was had by more than 150 ACRA members and guests. Good friends, both new and old, shared in the celebration by taking part in games, singing, and competing for prizes while enjoying great food and good old-fashioned conversation.



CHRISTINE CARRAGHER:

Always Calling It Like She Sees It as Auditor or Umpire

by Guillermo Cole

Christine Carragher retired in 2023, after almost 39 years of working in Allegheny County government. Chris served almost her entire career in the Controller's Office, except for two short stints totaling about four years in the benefits section of the Department of Human Resources and the payroll section of the Department of Computer Services.

After graduating from Robert Morris University in 1983 with a B.S. degree in accounting, Chris worked as an accountant for a small Millvale-based company before launching her career in county government the following year under Controller Frank Lucchino.

Chris later served under four other controllers, Dan Onorato, Mark Flaherty, Chelsa Wagner and Corey O'Connor. She worked both as an auditor and in accounting and payroll.

A nearly lifelong resident of Shaler, Chris attended St. Anthony's Catholic School in Millvale and Shaler Area schools. Upon graduating from Shaler Area High School in 1978, she enrolled at the CCAC Northside campus and later transferred to Robert Morris.

Chris started playing softball at the age of nine in youth leagues and continued playing throughout her high school years. Chris elevated her game to a point where she was recruited as a young adult to play for Pittsburgh City Sports, which competed at the highest level of women's slow-pitch softball.

In addition to playing locally in the eight-team Western Pennsylvania Women's Softball League, Chris of-

ten travelled on weekends to play in tournaments in nearby states.

Besides playing softball, after high school Chris turned to umpiring. It helped pay her way through college. She played and umpired until a few years after her marriage in 1987.

The parallels between being an auditor and umpire were certainly not lost on Chris. In both jobs you must always call it like you see it.

Chris and her husband Jim, who also umpired softball for a while after their marriage, are avid sports fans who enjoy football, baseball, basketball, hockey and naturally softball.

They are ardent fans of all Pitt sports and especially fond of the women's volleyball team that has reached the Final Four of the annual NCAA national tournament five years in a row.

The proud owner of many German Shepherds over the past 40 years, usually in pairs, Chris currently has a playful six-month-old named Dobby that enjoys the company of an older German Shepherd, 11-year-old Jasper.

Chris loves being outdoors. She says yardwork and landscaping around the house as well as daily walks in the surrounding area and woods, with or without her German Shepherds, are outdoor activities that she enjoys.



Congratulations

NEW RETIREES LIST

NOVEMBER RETIREES

Dean, Aura
Deisher, Craig
Detorakis, Denise
Erickson, Christopher
Garrett, Troy
Klickovich, David
Morgan, David
McVay, Kelly
Mikelonis, Jaison
Myers, Elizabeth
Pelger, William
Pilarski, Stephen
Puszko, Michael
Rogers, Kimberly
Thompson, Sandra

DECEMBER RETIREES

Burik, Edward
Donovan, Marci
Morris, Joseph
Rice, Earl

Scheid, Edward
Sheffield, Carla
Steigner, Gwendolyn
Szcypinski, Michael

JANUARY RETIREES

Bailie, Elizabeth
Cargile, Roberto
Collins, Kimberly
Web-Jones, Bernita
Maynard, Amy
Moore, Patricia
Palma, Martin
Pugliano, Anthony
Shea, Lorna
Ruckel, Kenneth
Shields, Kevin
Smith, Lisa
Trexler, Catherine
Ward, Terry
White, Theresa
Wiles, Damian

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

MARCH 18, 2026

Growing Up Yinzer

Author Dick Roberts will present a discussion on the topic of Yinzer as an integral part of Pittsburgh heritage.

APRIL 15, 2026

Western Pennsylvania Rail

Mark Spada, President of Western Pennsylvanians for Passenger Rail will discuss the history and the status of railroad travel in our region.

MAY 20, 2026

National Record Mart

Erik Selinger will offer a nostalgic reminiscence of the National Record Mart along with some music from Pittsburgh artists.

All luncheons start at Noon at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton

Take Exit 67 off Parkway West, I-376
Turn left onto Mansfield Avenue

Turn right at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton sign

Reservations must be made at least one week prior to the luncheon.

ACRA members – \$22.00
Guests with a reservation – \$25.00

Mail all reservation checks to:

ACRA
P.O. Box 15285
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

COOKING WITH ACRA CORRECTION

We tried our best proofreading the cookbook, but two things got past us.

Page 61

Chocolate Chip Cherry Cookies

Should read ½ cup (1 stick) of butter

Page 63

Coffee Bars

Add 2 cups of flour to ingredients

THE RIDDLER

What kind of running means walking?

(The answer can be found upside down elsewhere in this issue)

SCAM ALERT

by Kathleen Burk

Like everyone else, I fancy myself as an intelligent person. But sometimes life has a way of humbling me into my rightful place in the world. Please, learn from my experience and don't fall for this scam. This one came as a skillfully crafted post on social media. It can also arrive in your email inbox, looking very legitimate. The scam featured a professionally photographed basket of goodies from Trader Joes. It stated that I would receive a large introductory basket of the products shown for a mere \$14.99. (There are other similar offers that claim to be from other well-known companies.) The value of the shown products was several times that of the \$14.99 I would pay. To make it seem even more authentic, there were many positive comments from "satisfied customers" who touted the virtues of their purchase as they vouched for its legitimacy. So, I said to myself, "Why not, it's only \$14.99? What have I got to lose?"

Needless to say, the delivery never arrived. Long story short, not only did I not receive my gift basket, but

my bank account was slowly being drained. In a matter of three days more than \$300 was debited from my account. Upon realization, I contacted my bank, and a fraud investigation was immediately initiated. Lucky for me, the fraudster was found, and the money was immediately returned to my account. The two lessons learned were: it is probably safer to use a credit card rather than a debit card when you shop online; and most importantly, if something looks too good to be true it probably is.

If you have been a victim of a scam and would like to prevent others from suffering the same fate, there is no shame in sharing your experience. If you would like to share, you can contact us at the email address on the front of this newsletter. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, we can redact your name and any other identifying information. Remember that we are all in this together and whenever we can help each other retirement becomes a better place.



PENSION CHECK PAY DATE SCHEDULE FOR 2026

Allegheny County retiree pension checks are always mailed on the 4th Thursday of each month. If a pay date falls on a Holiday, then the pay date will be the day before. November is the only month affected by the Holiday schedule.

The Retirement office provides direct deposit information to the financial institutions in advance of pay dates. Retirees with direct deposit should see their deposits made on the dates below. The Retirement Office is not responsible for any fees associated with nonsufficient funds for delayed deposits of your financial institution.

2026 PAY DATES:

January 22
February 26
March 26
April 23

May 28
June 25
July 23
August 27

September 24
October 22
November 25
December 24

IN MEMORIAM*

Name	Date of Death
STEFL, LARRY	10/04/2025
COUSINS, RUTH ANN	10/05/2025
JAKIEL, FRANCIS	10/09/2025
COYNE, MATTHIAS	10/16/2025
WOYICKI, DONALD	10/22/2025
CHERRY, CAROL	10/28/2025
HIEBER, DONNA	10/29/2025
JENNINGS, R. ELAINE	11/01/2025
PHILLIPS, RONALD	11/01/2025
QUINN, RONALD	11/04/2025
WILSON, ROZANNE	11/09/2025
TKACH, JOSEPH	11/11/2025
ROBERTS, MARGARET	11/15/2025
WILLIAMS, BARBARA	11/17/2025
BODNAR, JOSEPH	11/17/2025
SCHELLHAAS, JOHN	11/18/2025
PARTIN, CLIFFORD	11/21/2025
GIBSON, BERNICE	11/22/2025
CAPARELLI, EVELYN	11/23/2025
SVIDRO, LAVERNE	11/23/2025
MALOY, LOIS	11/23/2025
QUINLAN, FRANCES	11/24/2025
HURNEY, ROBERT	11/25/2025
PRIORE, JOHN	11/25/2025
HAVICON, RAYMOND	11/26/2025
BUCCI, DONATO	11/28/2025
BUTERBAUGH, JEANNE	11/29/2025
IRELAND, MICHAEL	12/01/2025
HERMANN, ALBERT	12/05/2025
HARRIS, BETTY	12/05/2025
EVAGASH, AGNES	12/08/2025
TIMPSON, DAVID	12/10/2025
PALMER, BARBARA	12/11/2025
BALLARD, LILLIE	12/17/2025
MCCLLOUD, JAMES	12/18/2025
BALKOVEC, MILDRED	12/19/2025
ROBINSON, BETTY	12/19/2025
BURNS, JOHN	12/20/2025
DOBRANSKI, JOHN	12/21/2025
GEORGE, STEPHEN	12/24/2025
FALON, CATHERINE	12/26/2025
HANCOCK, JOHN	12/26/2025
OELER, ELIZABETH	12/29/2025
SMITH, BARBARA	12/30/2025
HERNON, ROBERT JR.	12/31/2025

*As provided by the Allegheny County Retirement Board



RECIPES BY PAM

by Pam Long

OVEN BEEF STEW

- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- Dash of black pepper
- 1 ½ pounds beef cut into cubes
- 2 tablespoons shortening
- 2 10½ ounce cans condensed tomato soup
- 1 ½ cups chopped onions
- ½ teaspoon dried basil crushed
- 4 medium potatoes pared and cubed
- 4 medium carrots cut into round pieces
- 1 stalk of celery cut into pieces
- 2 ½ cups water
- ½ cup of red wine

In a zip lock bag, combine flour, salt and pepper then add the meat into the seasoned flour mixture to coat the meat.

In a cast iron Dutch oven or oven proof large pot, brown the meat cubes in the shortening.

Add the soup, water, onion, and basil.

Cover and cook at 375 in a pre-heated oven for one hour.

Add potatoes, carrots, celery and wine and cover and bake for one hour longer.

Makes 6 servings

Enjoy!



Running out of gas.

THE RIDDLER
Answer to