

Important Telephone Numbers

Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield
RIPEA Group Health Plan
1-866-649-2041

Anthem Medicare Advantage Plan
Current members: 1-833-848-8730
More information: 1-833-848-8729

AMBA
Dental/Vision/Long Term Care/Cancer/Whole Life/
Medical Air Service Association
1-800-258-7041

HEAR in America
Hearing Plan
1-800-286-6149

INPRS/PERF
Retirement Checks & Benefits
1-844-464-6777

Genworth
Long Term Care
1-765-265-5606

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www.RIPEA.org

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Bruce Kimery
Indianapolis

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Indianapolis

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Indianapolis

RIPEA

Retired Indiana Public Employees Association

**Working for Your
Retirement Today**

May 2023



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A Message from the Executive Director

My husband has a habit of telling our kids – ages 3 and 8 – about fun things we’re planning. Whenever I hear him do this, he gets “the look”. Then he says, “What?” And I’ll once again explain, “What if something comes up and we can’t do it? Now, we’ve unnecessarily disappointed them.” And he’ll again say, “Then, they’ll just deal with the disappointment.”

And I’ll continue to hold my belief that the kids would have been fine not doing whatever we planned. But now that they know we’re planning it, they’ll be crushed if it doesn’t happen. And to be clear, my theory continues to hold up, in the unfortunate moments that something derails our plans.

Enter the 13th check.

I know, for many, it’s nowhere near as simple as being fine if you don’t get it. Many retirees truly depend on that check to pay or catch-up on bills. It’s critical to quality of life.

For many more, the hurt comes from or is heightened by the fact that it’s something we thought we had coming that now isn’t going to happen. It’s in the notion that “the thought doesn’t count”. Even though it was always just a possibility. The possibility somehow became a reality that was taken away rather than a nice bonus, if it actually happened.

And in moments like this, another year with no 13th check, let me be clear: While I don’t receive a 13th check, I’m mourning the loss of that possibility right there with you. While it’s not mine to give and it’s not mine to take away, it is mine to fight for. And we’ve done that, often against unknown and unseen forces of opposition. But honor came in fighting until the brutal end.

Honor also comes in getting back up and doing it again. For you. The members who inspire




our work each day. And the more members we have, the more effective we’ll be with our policy work next year. And we’re already strategizing new and better ways to engage you and legislators for our future pursuits of benefit enhancements.

Plus, we’ll certainly be taking Rep. Cherry up on his promise to make the 13th check the first bill he’ll file in 2024.

In the meantime, especially for those of you for whom the 13th check is a nice bonus, would you consider donating – or donating more – to the RIPEA/William R. Murphy Foundation to help those who will be crushed by not getting that check?

It’s also a nice way to recognize the 43 years that Bill Murphy dedicated his life to this organization – to members like you – as RIPEA’s executive director. Will you join me in honoring Bill and supporting your fellow retirees through giving this year?

Together, we can make the possibility of a grant for so many who truly need it a reality this year. Honored to serve those who served our state,


Jessica Love, Executive Director

Beneficiaries and Trusted Persons



One of the most common misconceptions people have when planning their estates is that everything will pass according to a will or a revocable living trust. Not so!

For example, if a will directs the executor to pay all the money in an investment account to a spouse, but the beneficiary listed on the investment account is someone else, whoever was listed as the beneficiary will get the money. That’s because anything with a beneficiary designation takes priority and passes outside the typical probate process. Probate is the court-supervised process of settling a deceased person’s estate. So, every year or so, it’s good practice to make sure the beneficiaries on your investment accounts and retirement plans list the person or people you ultimately want to receive the balance.

Another person you can add to your investment accounts is a “trusted person.” Many investors are unfamiliar with this option, so you may want to encourage yours to add a trusted person to existing and new accounts. A trusted person is simply someone that can be consulted by an investment advisor in case they see anything concerning. For example, suppose someone who consistently takes monthly income suddenly wants to remove a very large lump sum. The investment advisor can contact the trusted person to confirm this is an appropriate transaction. The trusted person has no access to the money in the account, can’t direct trades and may not even know how much is in the account. They are simply a safety net to contact if the advisor has questions regarding the investor’s conduct.

Tom Faulconer, JD, CFP®
tom@transitionsfinancialindiana.com

The opinions contained herein are not intended to be investment advice or a solicitation to buy or sell any securities. Archer Investment Corporation manages The Archer Funds. You should carefully consider the investment objectives, potential risks, management fees, and charges and expenses of the Fund before investing. The Fund’s prospectus contains this and other information about the Fund, and should be read carefully before investing. You may obtain a current copy of the Fund’s prospectus by calling 800-581-1780 or visit www.thearcherfunds.com. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment in the Fund will fluctuate so that an investor’s shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The Archer Funds are distributed by Arbor Court Capital, LLC, 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, OH 44147 Member FINRA.

Why I Support the RIPEA Foundation

As you know, over 40,000 PERF members depend on RIPEA every year to help protect their retirement benefits. But protecting our members involves more than just lobbying for improved pension benefits. We also need to be there for each other when times are hard.

Thanks to the past generosity of thousands of members, the RIPEA Foundation has been able to provide Individual Assistance Grants to members facing financial hardship, including medical expenses, insurance premiums, home modification expenses for disability access, and more.

I donate to the RIPEA Foundation because public employees have faithfully served Indiana taxpayers, and in retirement, they deserve to live with dignity. Plus, the Foundation Board, currently Marty Montgomery, Howard Buchanon, currently Marty Montgomery, Howard Buchanon,

Craig Hartzler, Cleo Duncan, does an outstanding job administering the Foundation grants, identifying and assisting our most vulnerable members.

If you can, please consider donating to the RIPEA Foundation so we can continue to provide financial relief to our fellow members during their difficult times. Every dollar makes a difference.

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Murphy
Bill Murphy

How to be Prepared for an Emergency

While everyone is at risk during a natural weather-related disaster or similar emergency, older adults can be especially vulnerable during extreme events. Preparation is your best strategy, and stocking a good emergency

kit is a great way to prepare yourself in advance. The National Institute on Aging says you should fill your emergency kit with the following:

10 Essentials for Your Emergency Kit

Older adults can be especially vulnerable during severe weather.

Stock your emergency kit with these essentials.

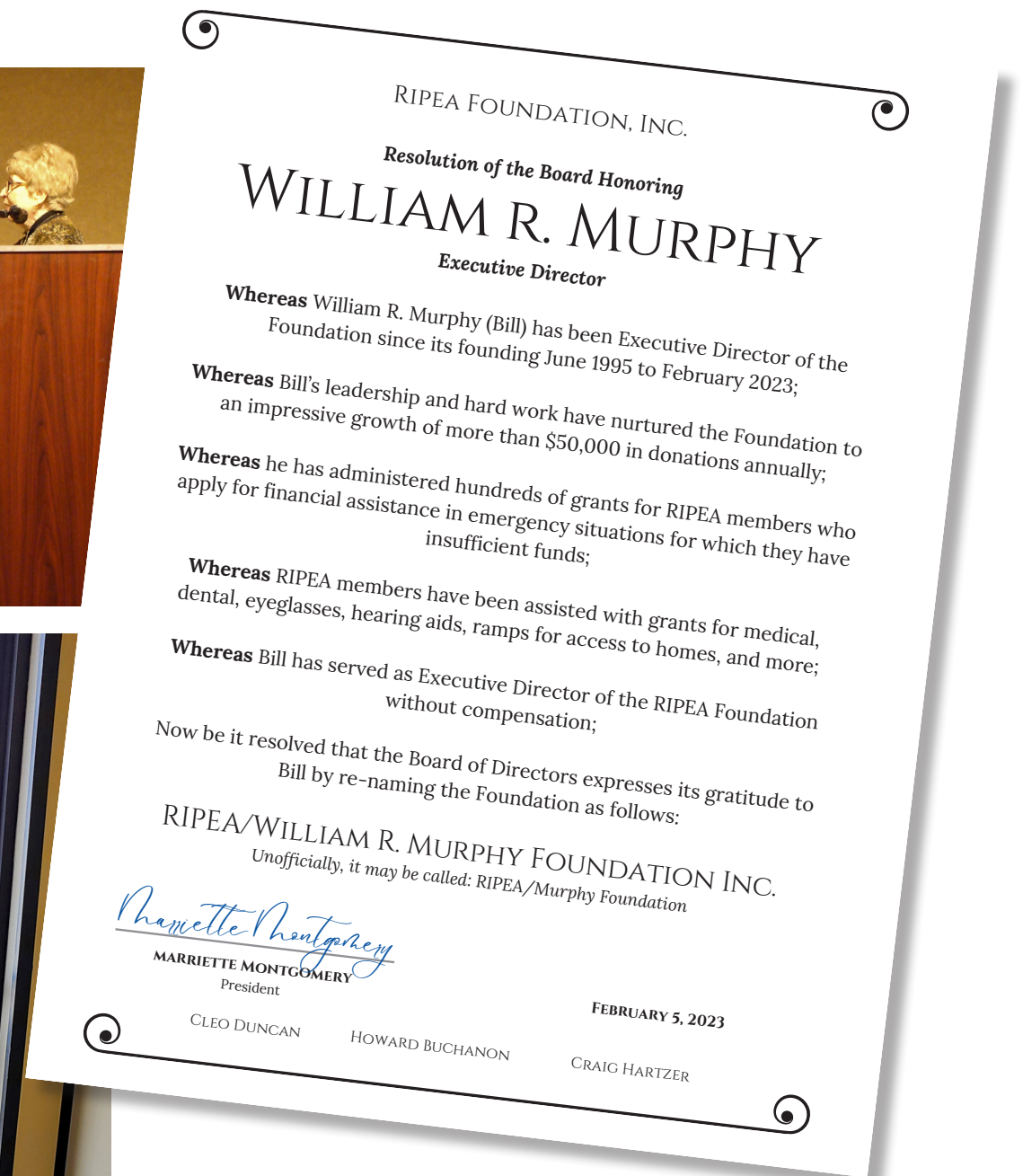


To learn more about how older adults can be prepared, visit www.nia.nih.gov/disaster-preparedness.



RIPEA Foundation Honors Bill Murphy

With overwhelming support, the RIPEA Foundation Board passed the following resolution at their meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023, formally renaming the RIPEA Foundation in honor of RIPEA's former executive director, Bill Murphy.



To learn more about the RIPEA Foundation, visit RIPEA.org

Demystifying Prescription Drug Plans

Why are prescription drug plans so complicated?

I go to the pharmacy to get my prescriptions, and I never know what it will cost me. You are not alone; many folks have this issue. This brief synopsis may help provide insight into how prescription drug plans are designed and answer some of your prescription drug questions. It's important to understand prescription coverage, since the government imposes a penalty on anyone who does not adopt a drug plan when they enroll in Medicare. Prescription drug plans are divided into 4 distinct categories:

DEDUCTIBLE: Many prescription drug plans have a deductible, but not all. Deductibles will vary, but they cannot exceed \$480 for 2023. The deductible is applied upfront and begins in January each calendar year.

BEGINNING COVERAGE: After the deductible is met, the actual prescription drug coverage begins. Prescription drugs are assigned to tiers, according to the cost of the drug. The number of tiers can vary; some plans can have up to 6 Drug Tiers. The higher the drug cost, the higher the tier to which it is assigned, and therefore, the higher the copay. This phase of your coverage would begin with copays for your prescriptions, whether on a 30-day or 90-day option. You will continue in this coverage category until the total retail cost of all of your prescriptions for the year equals \$4,660.

DONUT HOLE: The "Donut Hole" begins when

the total annual cost of your prescription drugs reaches the \$4,660 maximum. While you are in the donut hole, you must pay more of the cost of your drugs. When this law was implemented (2006), folks had to pay the full cost of their drugs while in the "Donut Hole". However, over the years, the law has been improved. Now, while in the "Donut Hole", you are required to pay 25% of the retail cost. You will remain in the "Donut Hole" until the total retail cost of your drugs reaches \$7,400.

CATASTROPIC COVERAGE: When the total retail cost of your drugs reaches \$7,400 (Remember: you did not actually pay the retail price; you paid a deductible, then copays, and finally 25% of the cost of the drug), you move into the "Catastrophic" drug phase. In this tier, you pay a significantly-reduced copay per drug, for the remainder of the calendar year.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT was just passed into law that provides helpful changes to current prescription drug coverage;

- Beginning 04/01/23, you may see lower out-of-pocket costs for certain Part B drugs and biologics.
- Beginning 07/01/23, enrollees will not pay more than \$35 for Part B insulin and insulin pumps under the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) benefit.

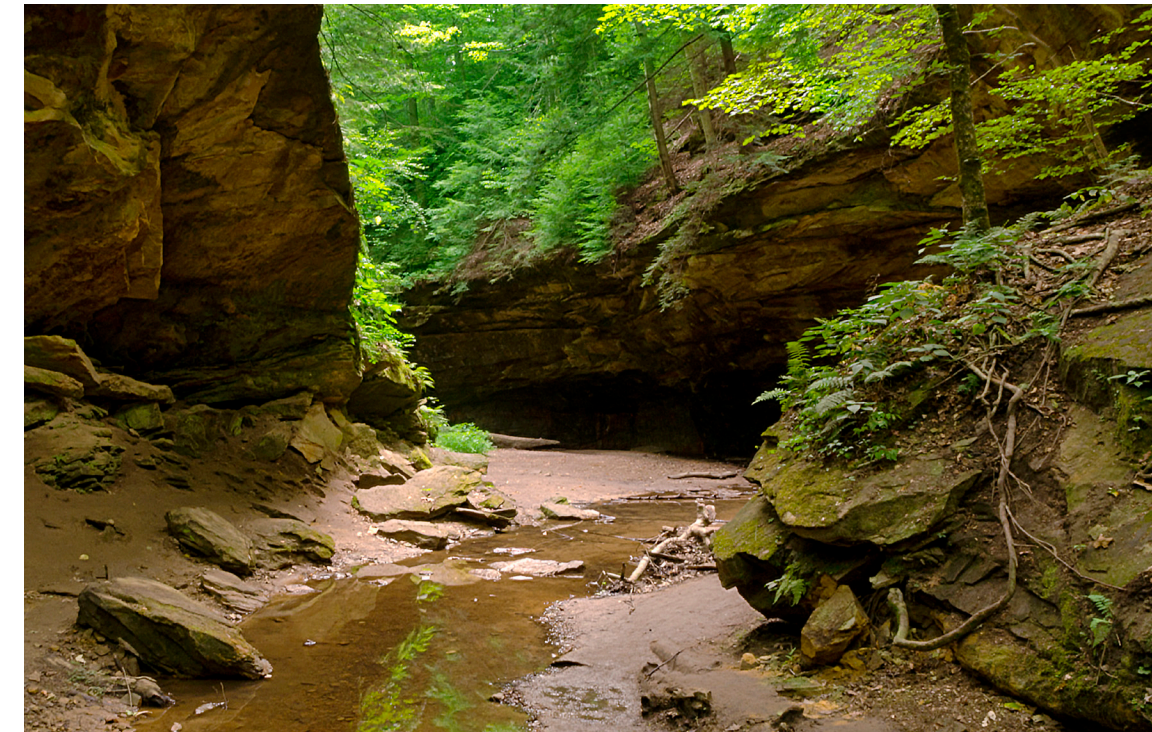
If you have additional questions, please call the RIPEA office (317-789-0244) or Jim Benge CHC, RIPEA Insurance Consultant at 317-460-8474.



Plan a Spring Getaway to one of Indiana's Most Popular State Parks

Spending a weekend, or longer, at one of Indiana's picturesque state parks makes for a great springtime getaway. Hiking, camping, kayaking, fishing, picnicking, sightseeing, or simply enjoying the great outdoors are fantastic activities you can experience with family and friends.

Some parks are more popular than others, and based on estimated attendance during the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the most popular state parks in Indiana are as follows:



Indiana Dunes State Park

Lying at the north end of State Road 49 in Porter County, the 2,182-acre Indiana Dunes includes more than three miles of beautiful beach along Lake Michigan's southern shore. The park's natural dunes and landscape have kept visitors enamored by its beauty since 1925. Address: 1600 N. 25 E., Chesterton, IN 46304

Brown County State Park

Brown County State Park is Indiana's largest park, nicknamed the "Little Smokies" because the area resembles Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains. Many visitors flock to the park in the fall to admire the scenic foliage of the park's 16,000 acres of rugged hills and forestland. Located in Nashville, Indiana, the area is also famous for its shopping, dining, arts and entertainment. Address: 1405 S.R. 46 W., Nashville, IN 47448

Fort Harrison State Park

Fort Harrison State Park is a stop on the Indiana Birding Trail, providing visitors views of Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Brown

Thrasher, Orioles, Henslow's Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, and many other early successional nesters. The 1,700-acre park is also home to the Museum of 20th Century Warfare, which displays exhibits about the lives and history of the soldiers who once marched the grounds of Fort Harrison and hosts wartime re-enactments throughout the year.

Address: 6000 N. Post Road, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Brookville Lake

On Indiana's eastern border in the heart of the Whitewater River Valley, Brookville Lake is home to two State Recreation Areas (SRA), Mounds SRA and Quakertown SRA, celebrated for its fishing, boating, hiking trails and campsites. The area is also known worldwide for its significant deposit of Ordovician fossils, which are 450 million years old and can still be seen today. Address: 14108 SR 101, Brookville, IN 47012

Want to learn more about Indiana's beautiful and historic state parks before planning your spring getaway? Visit IN.Gov/DNR for more information.

RIPEA/WILLIAM R. MURPHY FOUNDATION

2415 Directors Row, Suite M, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Telephone Number: 1-800-345-9214

2023 Individual Grant Application

Application must be received in our office by June 30, 2023

Member's Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. (____) _____

Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Completing This Application Other Than Applicant: _____

TOTAL GROSS MONTHLY INCOME:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>Total</u>
Social Security	_____	_____	_____
PERF	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Employment	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Amount of Grant Requested: \$ _____

Grant request not to exceed \$1,000.

Total monthly income cannot exceed \$3,000.

NOTE: If all lines are not completed and necessary supporting documents are not submitted, the application will not be considered. All information on this application is confidential and will not be shared with any person(s) not affiliated with the RIPEA Foundation.

Purpose for which Grant will be used: (If additional space is needed for a complete explanation, please attach a separate sheet): _____

If Grant is to assist with payment of an existing financial obligation, please include a copy of the bill or a list of expenses, if submitting a credit card bill.

Will any part of this obligation be paid by insurance: _____ If yes, how much? _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print Name: _____

**For Office
Use Only**

Verification of Membership by: _____ Amount Recommended: _____
Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____

***PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

RIPEA/WILLIAM R. MURPHY FOUNDATION GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST:

- Have a signature
- Include documentation as proof of financial need
- Provide accurate monthly income totals
- Request an amount no greater than \$1,000 (max)

ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR REQUEST:

- Medical Bills
- Prescriptions
- Hearing Aids
- Eyeglasses
- Dental
- Utilities
- Handicap Ramps or Equipment (estimate or bill must be included)
- Medical Insurance Premiums
- Credit card bills, when used to pay for acceptable expenses (itemized billing statement must be included as proof)

UNACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR REQUEST:

- Amounts Over \$1,000
- Property Taxes
- Funeral Expenses
- New Roof, New Furnace, Septic Tank Installment, Etc.
- Car Payments, Repairs, or Purchase of a New Car
- Vacations
- College Loans or Tuition
- Mortgage or Home Equity Loans
- Cell Phone Bills
- Cable Bills
- Veterinary Bills
- Legal Fees
- Local, State, Federal Taxes
- If you received a grant in the previous year, you are ineligible to apply for one year