

# RIPEA

Retired Indiana Public Employees Association

## Working for Your Retirement Today

February, 2012



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# A Message from the Executive Director

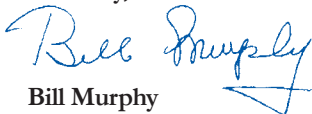
As you know, RIPEA turns 40 years old this year. We hope you will join us in celebrating this great milestone in September. After all, it's your support that has enabled RIPEA to consistently secure and improve PERF member retirement benefits all this time.

The Board of Directors has established a Task Force devoted solely to planning our 40th Anniversary Celebration. Comprised of 4 Board Members and 5 RIPEA members, the Task Force is currently making recommendations for our 40th Anniversary Celebration, which will take place during our 22nd Annual Convention on September 12, 2012. As of now, the Task Force has set the following goals for 2012:

- Reach a record 40,000 RIPEA members. Forty years old and forty-thousand members = the Forty & Forty Anniversary Celebration.
- Raise \$400,000 for the RIPEA Foundation (\$200,000 from RIPEA members and PERF employees, and \$200,000 from grants). Remember, this money is reserved to help members just like you through difficult times.
- Develop a 40th Anniversary logo to be used on all RIPEA letters, envelopes, etc. Ruby red will be the official color of the new logo.

Look for new developments on the Forty & Forty Celebration in the next Communicator. And be sure to mark your calendars for September 10, 2012. RIPEA's Forty & Forty celebration will be one to remember.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Murphy

## Our Newest Plan to Improve Your Benefits

RIPEA exists to protect your pension and other retirement benefits. Some of the ways we do this include:

1. scrutinizing new legislative proposals that might pose a threat to you
2. obtaining legislative sponsors on your behalf
3. testifying at committee hearings
4. submitting proposals to the General Assembly
5. following these proposals throughout the entire legislative process

As you can probably guess, these efforts require time and resources. That's where you come in. The more RIPEA members, the more we can do to protect and enhance your retirement benefits at the state, county and local level. So, RIPEA is always looking for new members to support this mission.

Our latest effort to improve your benefits has been to work harder to reach PERF members

at state universities and colleges. These organizations rank in the top three in the state for number of PERF employees. RIPEA is currently in contact with the human resources departments at these colleges and universities to spread information about our mission. State employees deserve to know just how RIPEA lobbies to secure Cost of Living Increases and/or 13th checks for all PERF members.

By reaching out to state universities and colleges, we hope to increase RIPEA membership. Our goal is 40,000 members to coincide with our 40th Anniversary. This will enable us to maintain a stronger presence within the legislature, testify at more committee hearings, submit more proposals to the General Assembly, and much more. Put simply, RIPEA will be able to work even harder to help secure your retirement benefits.



# Your Chance to Discuss Concerns with Members of the House of Representatives



Chapter meetings are your chance to meet with legislative leaders to raise issues and ask questions about new laws and proposals that may affect you.

The Southeast Chapter of RIPEA (Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Orange, Scott and Washington counties) will hold its Spring Chapter Meeting on Friday, April 27, 2012 at 11:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Lakeside in Clarksville, IN.

Indiana House Representatives Terry Goodin from District 66, Rhonda Rhoads from District 70, Steve Stemler from District 71, Ed Clere from District 72 and Steve Davidson from District 73 have all been invited. Each has marked their calendar and hopefully will be able to attend for a panel discussion of new legislative events.

In addition, the Spring Chapter Meeting will hold elections for new RIPEA Officers. So be

sure to come out and vote for your favorite RIPEA representatives.

Additional Upcoming Chapter Meetings  
February 29, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

Terre Haute Chapter  
John Gregg, Democratic Candidate for Governor will speak

April 20, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

Central Indiana Chapter  
Golden Corral, West 38th Street,  
Indianapolis, IN

May 7, 2012 11:30 A.M.

South West Chapter  
Ponderosa Steakhouse, 2625 Hart Street,  
Vincennes, IN

Note: Howard County, South Bend and Northeast Indiana have not set a date for their Spring Chapter Meetings

## Will You Get a 13th Check in 2012?

Over the past 24 years, RIPEA members have received a permanent Cost of Living Increase in their monthly pension and/or a 13th check. So, now that 2012 is here, you're probably wondering if you can count on the same. The short answer is: hopefully.

On January 26, House Bill 1123, authored by Representatives Burton (R-Greenwood) and Neese (R-Elkhart), passed the Indiana House on a vote of 82-2. The provisions of this bill include a 13th check for PERF members for 2012.

If this Bill passes and is signed into law by Governor Daniels you will receive a 13th check by October 1, 2012. To qualify for the 13th check you must be a retiree of PERF with an effective date of retirement of December 1, 2011 or prior. The amount of the 13th check will be the same as 2011:

Years of Service	Amount
5 years but less than 10	\$150.00 - Disability Retirees Only
10 years but less than 20	\$275.00
20 years but less than 30	\$350.00
30 years or more	\$450.00

NOTE: HB 1162, authored by Rep. Neese, contained a 3% COLA is dead this session.

Although this bill has passed the Indiana House, it still has a ways to go. HB 1123 is now being sent to the State Senate where Senators Kenley (R-Noblesville) and Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso) are sponsors. Once the bill gets to the Senate, we must have a hearing, pass it out of Committee, have a second reading with all participating legislators, then a third reading. Next the bill is sent to the Governor to be signed into law or vetoed. The good news is: Governor Daniels has voted for our 13th check since his first year, so we remain optimistic.

However, we encourage you to ask your State Senators to support HB 1123. The more voices they hear in favor of this bill, the better it is for you. Also, be sure to thank your State Representatives for passing this bill through the Indiana House.

The bottom line is: your 13th check is making progress. Rest assured we're working hard to get it to you.



## Congratulations, Marty!

RIPEA Board Member Marty Chitwood was recognized by the Indiana Legislature on January 23, 2012. A resident of Greenwood, Marty was praised for her many years of volunteer work at organizations such as Riley Hospital for Children at I.U. and Westwood Elementary School. We're proud to tell you that she received a standing ovation in both houses of the Legislature. Congratulations, Marty!

## Important Telephone Numbers

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

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

**G.E.T.O.** ..... 1-877-867-3639  
Vacation Condos at Reduced Rates - [www.gettraelop.com](http://www.gettraelop.com)

**Genworth** ..... 1-866-582-2436  
Long Term Care

**HearPo** ..... 1-888-432-7464  
Hearing Plan

**MetLife** ..... 1-800-438-6388  
Auto/Home

**P.E.R.F.** ..... 1-888-526-1687  
Retirement Checks & Benefits

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The RIPEA office hours are:  
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