

Important Telephone Numbers

Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield RIPEA Group Health Plan	1-866-649-2041
AMBA Dental/Vision/Long Term Care/Cancer/Whole Life/Medical Air Service Association	1-800-258-7041
G.E.T.O. Vacation Condos at Reduced Rates - www.gettraelop.com	1-877-867-3639
Genworth Long Term Care	1-765-827-6607
HearPo Hearing Plan	1-888-432-7464
MetLife Auto/Home	1-800-438-6388
P.E.R.F. Retirement Checks & Benefits	1-888-526-1687

The RIPEA Board of Directors Working for You

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The RIPEA office hours are:
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RIPEA

Retired Indiana Public Employees Association

Working for Your Retirement Today

November 2013



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A Message from the Executive Director

There is a lot to talk about in this month's newsletter—as always, your friends at RIPEA continue to keep you at the heart of everything we do.

Several of our hardworking board members appeared earlier this fall before the Pension Management Oversight Commission to keep PERF benefits intact, while others worked with our associates in the state government to stay focused on our members' best interests. There is some important legislation on next year's agenda regarding a cost of living adjustment to our Public Employee Retirement Fund benefits, as well as our "13th Check" program.

We have a new board member to introduce to you in this issue. John Galloway begins his 4-year-term on our board and we look forward to utilizing his expertise in training and development.

In this issue, we also highlight an area of RIPEA that we don't mention enough—our RIPEA Foundation. We started the Foundation in 1995, issued our first grant in 2002, and continue today assisting our members who face a challenging time. We are proud to say that every single dollar that is donated to the RIPEA Foundation goes to assisting RIPEA members. We hope you enjoy meeting Margo!

Remember, your feedback is always welcome! This month, as we lead into the hectic holiday season, I hope that you remain healthy, safe and sound.

With warm regards,


Bill Murphy

John C. Galloway elected to the Board of Directors



The RIPEA Board of Directors, in its meeting on September 9, elected John C. Galloway to the Board.

Galloway has spent his career as a manager and teacher of training and development for several private corporations and also in the public sector, receiving numerous honors for his work in this field. Since 2001, he has served as Manager of Training and Development for the City of Indianapolis. He will serve on the Board as one of the Active Employee Representatives.

Future PERF benefits may be reduced

Those who are planning to retire October 1, 2014 or later may see reduced benefits if the retiree chooses to annuitize his/her annuity savings account. The Indiana Public Retirement System board voted in its meeting on July 30, 2013 to privatize the annuity process which would result in future annuity payments to be paid at the "market" rate. Currently the annuity payments are paid by INPRS at a 7.5% rate which is above the "market" rate.

The average reduction in benefits for a PERF retiree will be \$77 per month.

RIPEA obviously opposes this decision and recently testified before the Pension Management Oversight Commission (PMOC), urging INPRS to reverse this decision. PMOC, in its meeting on October 21, passed a motion to recommend to the INPRS board that the annuity process not be privatized. The INPRS board, in its meeting on October 25 did not act on the recommendation and tabled a decision until its December meeting.

THIS ISSUE ONLY AFFECTS NEW RETIREES WITH AN EFFECTIVE RETIREMENT DATE OF OCTOBER 1, 2014 OR LATER, AND NOT CURRENT RETIREES.

COLA and the "13th Check" are goals of 2014 legislation

The RIPEA board of directors voted to pursue both a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and a 13th Check in the 2014 Indiana General Assembly.

The Board's position is both a COLA and a 13th Check are important to RIPEA members. In spite of RIPEA's efforts there has not been a COLA passed by the Indiana Legislature since 2008 (paid in January 2009). The Board feels that members have therefore lost purchasing power in the past five years, and as a result, the Board has made a COLA a priority in 2014. The Board also recognizes the importance of the 13th Check to our members and will again sponsor legislation for a 13th Check.

We encourage all RIPEA members to contact their local legislators prior to the 2014 Legislative Session (which convenes January 13, 2014) and encourage their support of a COLA and 13th Check.

Lifelock offers great rate for RIPEA members

In August, we introduced an offer to RIPEA members for Lifelock, a personal-identity protection plan. Lifelock offers identify threat detection and alert, 24-hour member support, lost wallet protection and a \$1 million service guarantee, as well as enhanced coverage on data breach protection, public database monitoring, bank account and credit alerts.

For information on pricing or to enroll in Lifelock, please call the RIPEA office at (800) 345-9214. Even if you already have Lifelock, you can get the same coverage you have only at the new lower price offered only to RIPEA members.

RIPEA holds 23rd annual convention

RIPEA held its 23rd annual convention on September 9 in Indianapolis. Nearly 345 members and guests attended this year—the second highest turnout for the organization, only surpassed by the 2012 convention which celebrated RIPEA's 40th anniversary.

The attendees, many of which were transported by charter buses from around the state at no cost, heard presentations on the importance of protecting against identity theft and understanding the impact of the Healthcare Reform Act. Guests also learned more about the RIPEA Foundation, while Senator Phil Boots and Representative David Niezgodski talked about the future of cost of living adjustments and RIPEA's "13th Check" program.

The convention was concluded by the Marian University Chamber Singers,

who paid Tribute to the five branches of our Armed Forces.

RIPEA Foundation helps members



Retired since 2005 from her position at the since-closed Fort Wayne State Developmental Center, Margo Bortner joined RIPEA because she'd often heard of the organization's many benefits. She also knew of RIPEA's Legislative efforts which has generated a 13th check and/or a COLA for PERF retirees in every year since 1991.

Margo had also heard of the RIPEA Foundation, but didn't see a reason it would ever become a factor in her life. Until the day it did. As a result of several high medical bills, Margo found herself in a situation where she wasn't able to keep up with her expenses. She knew the Foundation could grant up to \$1,000 in emergency help to its members; she'd simply need to apply.

"I never thought I would need the help," Margo says quietly. "But I did. If RIPEA hadn't stepped in, I would have fallen behind."

She wants the donors who contribute to the RIPEA Foundation to know just how important their contribution was.

"I'm just so grateful to the Foundation for helping me. I would say to those who gave money that their money goes to a wonderful cause."

If you'd like to contribute to the RIPEA Foundation, please call (800) 345-9214 for more information. Remember, every dollar donated makes an important difference in someone's life!

PERF retirees play big role in Hoosier economy

Reprinted from June 1, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS – Benefit payments from Indiana's largest public pension fund had a \$902 million impact on the Hoosier economy while supporting more than 11,000 jobs.

So concludes an economic impact analysis completed by Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, Department of Business Economics and Public Policy. The analysis considered benefit payments made to members of the Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) during the fund's 2008 fiscal year, concluding June 30, 2008.

According to the report, PERF payments in the state totaled more than \$465 million. As these funds were spent and re-spent they generated a total increase in state domestic product of \$902,247,000 with an employment effect of approximately 11,290 jobs.

"The basic idea is that a dollar spent circulates more than once in a community," said Bruce Jaffee, Lead Researcher at the Kelley School of Business.

More than 90 percent of PERF benefit payments went to retirees living in Indiana, while the remainder went to retirees, throughout the United States and the world.