

**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](http://www.RIPEA.org)

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

August 2021



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## A Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the August issue of the *Communicator*.

We are both grateful and excited for the opportunity to gather at RIPEA's 30th Annual Convention happening September 13, 2021, at Primo Banquet & Conference Center in Indianapolis!

We are pleased to once again offer free transportation to this year's Convention. In prior years we offered free transportation from these locations: South Bend, Clarksville, Muncie, Kokomo, Fort Wayne, and Gary. However, for this year's Convention, RIPEA will provide free transportation from any location that can guarantee a minimum of 25 riders!

By joining us, you'll hear presentations on some of the most pressing issues facing seniors today. And you'll also get a great lunch! What better way to learn about the available opportunities to PERF retirees than to attend this special day. Please look through this newsletter for much more information, including registration.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, call the RIPEA office at (800) 345-9214.

Sincerely,



Bill Murphy, Executive Director

## RIPEA 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Agenda

September 13, 2021, at Primo Banquet & Conference Center in Indianapolis. Registration form included in this newsletter.

### 9:00 A.M.

- Registration

### 10:00 A.M.

- Presentation of Colors
- Indiana State Police Color Guard
- National Anthem
- Pledge of Allegiance, Addie Ratcliff

### 10:05 A.M.

- Welcome & Introductions
- Roger Parent, President

### 10:15 A.M.

- RIPEA Year in Review
- Bill Murphy, Executive Director

### 10:25 A.M.

- Public Employees Retirement Fund
- Jeff Hutson, Chief Communication Officer-INPRS

### 10:45 A.M.

- 2021 Legislative Review
- Special Guest Joe Loftus, Lobbyist

### 11:45 A.M.

- RIPEA Foundation
- Marriette Montgomery, Chairperson

### NOON

- Lunch served & opportunity to visit with vendors

### 1:15 P.M.

- Elvis Impersonator
- Bruce Borders, King of the Capitol

### 1:35 P.M.

- RIPEA's Supplemental Health Insurance Plans, Medicare Advantage Plans
- Jim Bengel, RIPEA Insurance Consultant

### 2:00 P.M.

- President Benjamin Harrison Biography
- Charles A. Hyde, President & CEO

### 2:30 P.M.

- Door prizes

### 3:00 P.M.

- Adjournment

## Your Legislative Corner

An update from RIPEA's Executive Director, Bill Murphy

All RIPEA members are hopefully now aware that this year's Legislature did not approve a 13th check for PERF retirees or the Indiana Teachers Retirement Fund. Instead, they agreed to a 1% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to begin in January of 2022. The 1% COLA will be applied to only the defined benefit pension portion of your benefit and not the portion attributed to your annuity savings.

Although we appreciate the Legislature approving a 1% COLA, the elimination of the 13th check, which is a one-time payment based on the number of years of service you accrued under PERF, creates a financial hardship for the majority of our members.

HB 1227, sponsored by Representative Mike Karickhoff, included a 13th check with a one-time payment of a minimum of \$325 and a maximum of \$500. Representative Karickhoff was able to get this bill passed by the House of Representatives with only one dissenting vote. But, unfortunately, the Senate eliminated the 13th check and replaced it with a 1% COLA.

RIPEA sent a letter to all of our 45,000 members asking them to contact their State Representative and State Senator to request reinstatement of the 13th check.

Your response has been astounding. So many of you took the time and effort to contact your Legislator(s). The RIPEA Board of Directors and staff are most appreciative of your efforts.

At this time, we don't know whether the efforts of our Board and our members will be successful. However, we do know if RIPEA and its 45,000 members did nothing, there was no potential for change. Based on the number of calls RIPEA has received from several Legislators, it's clear your voices were heard.

RIPEA also sent a letter to PERF retirees who are not RIPEA members - asking them to contact their Legislator(s). Those folks also stepped up and reached out to their elected officials.

We would be remiss if we did not express our appreciation for the efforts of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) in this matter—hardworking educators who also had their 13th check eliminated. We understand why many retired teachers are upset.

Thank you again to those who took action. We'll continue to inform you of any new legislative updates.

Sincerely,



Bill Murphy, Executive Director



## Do you really want an annuity?

Insurance salespeople love to tell you all the great features of annuities. But sometimes, they leave out some pretty important information. So here are four important points you should know about annuities.

**Annuities are the only investment legally allowed to promise income for life.** Of course, you can also opt for other income options, but you will receive payments for life if you choose a lifetime option, no matter how long you live!

**Annuities have surrender charges.** In my 30+ years in the insurance and financial services industry, the number one complaint I have heard about is unknown surrender charges. Sometimes

customers aren't told about these charges, and sometimes they don't remember.

Annuities have surrender charges, which means you won't be able to get all of your money back if you sell or withdraw money during the "surrender period." Surrender charges can last anywhere from a few years to as long as 20 years! So a good rule of thumb is to look at the features of the annuity. The more features it has and the better it sounds, the longer the surrender charges will be.

**Annuities are one of the very few investments that are income-taxable to your beneficiary.** This is because most assets you leave at your

death receive what's called a "stepped up basis." Any gain, ordinary or capital, is erased for income tax purposes for your beneficiary. But IRAs, 401ks and annuities are excluded from stepped up basis treatment. As a result, your beneficiary will have to pay income tax like you would have if you cashed it out while alive.

**Final thoughts.** Annuities are excellent products for someone who wants a lifetime, guaranteed income. Plus, many have some unique and helpful features. But be sure you understand the risks and downside as well before you sign on the dotted line.

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

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## Indiana Representative and Mayor of Jasonville to entertain guests at this year's Convention with his Elvis impersonation



Bruce Borders is a Representative for the 45th District in the Indiana House of Representatives and a former mayor of Jasonville, Indiana. He's also a gifted Elvis impersonator nicknamed the King of the Capitol and he'll be entertaining guests at this year's RIPEA Convention with his rendition of Elvis' biggest hits!

Bruce's talents fit RIPEA's 30th Annual Convention 1950's theme perfectly. Do you remember some of the best movies from this decade? Shane, Big Country, Father of the Bride and Bridge on the River Kwai come to mind.

We hope you can join us at this year's Convention on September 13 at Primo Banquet & Conference Center in Indianapolis. We're thrilled to welcome the King of the Capitol and can't wait to share memories and experience the fun with you!

## Vendors for the 2021 RIPEA Annual Convention

We are pleased to announce the following vendors will be a part of this year's Annual Convention.

- Anthem Insurance
- Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA)
- Crown Hill Cemetery
- Genworth Life & Long-Term Care Insurance
- Hallmark Home Mortgage
- Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS)
- Neptune Society
- Seasons Hospice & Palliative Care
- Stillwaters Adult Daycare Center
- St. Vincent Hospital Therapeutic Services



The Indiana Public Retirement System, commonly referred to as INPRS, originated in 2011 when the Indiana General Assembly integrated the state's two largest public retirement plans. Those two plans are the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) and the Indiana State Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF). Today, INPRS manages eight defined benefit (DB) retirement plans, serving more than 208,000 active members and approximately 160,000 benefit recipients, and operates a \$36.9 billion portfolio.

INPRS supports members during their retirement years by developing engaging educational materials, offering group meetings, providing dynamic account statements, and more. To view resources available to you, visit <https://bit.ly/INPRSRetiredMemberResources> and publications at <https://bit.ly/INPRSNewsletters>. You can also watch this YouTube video at <https://bit.ly/Who-Is-INPRS> to learn more. Questions about INPRS? Call 844-GO-INPRS.



## Time to Resume Primary Care

As people begin returning to activities impacted by the pandemic, it's a good time to get back on track with healthy habits—especially if you delayed preventive care or routine doctor visits in the past year.

“With vaccination rolling out and COVID-19 cases coming down, we’re seeing more patients coming in to catch up and see what they can do to improve their health,” said Huicong Teshima, MD, a family medicine physician with IU Health Primary Care in Fishers.

Teshima says seeing a primary care doctor at least once a year and completing preventive care screenings are two of the most important things you can do to stay healthy. During a yearly physical exam, patients learn what screenings and tests are needed based on their age and medical history.

“In addition to the physical exam, I talk to my patients about current guidelines in terms of screening tests for cancer and make sure that their immunizations are up to date,” she says. “If there are any health concerns, we talk about those.”

Yearly physicals and recommended preventive screenings are essential for everyone – even healthy individuals with no current health issues.

“The whole point of getting these tests is to catch disease early,” Teshima says. “When you catch things early, there are more options for treatment and cure. As primary care providers, we want to make sure people live their best life, and prevention is a big part of that.”

To prepare for your yearly physical or wellness exam, Teshima offers these suggestions:

- + **Keep a diary of symptoms and ask your family and friends if they’ve noticed anything that may require attention.**
- + **Write down your questions for the doctor in advance and bring them to your appointment.**
- + **Make a list of any medications or supplements you take.**

Between yearly checkups, it’s vital to contact your doctor when you have new symptoms or health concerns.

“You should have a general idea about your baseline health, so if something changes or you notice something that is affecting your daily activities – that’s something to talk about with a medical professional,” Teshima says. “Virtual visits have been very useful during the pandemic; there are a lot of health issues we can effectively address virtually if you’re unable to come in for an appointment.”

*This article is provided by IU Health.*

## Original Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage Plans

Medicare guarantees affordable health insurance for millions of older Americans, but it doesn’t cover the cost of all healthcare expenses. For example, Original Medicare (Parts A & B) doesn’t cover dental, vision and hearing. So what should you do if you need help paying for these particular healthcare costs? Tap into your RIPEA insurance benefits!

Because you’re a RIPEA member, you have access to some of the best Medicare Supplemental and Medicare Advantage Plans that can help you pay for dental, vision and hearing. In addition, your RIPEA insurance benefits grant you access to plans that aren’t available elsewhere and include one of the lowest annual out-of-pocket plans available. You can even choose your preferred doctor and hospital!

Get started today by scheduling a FREE consultation with RIPEA’s Insurance Consultant, Jim Benge—an insurance expert with decades of experience who’s professionally equipped to answer all of your questions and help you choose insurance plans that are right for you.

Consultations with Jim are informative and easy-going. His role is to help you understand your insurance options, not sell them to you! That way, you gain the knowledge and confidence you need to make decisions for yourself.

Your access to affordable healthcare is important to us, and it’s why we firmly believe every RIPEA member should take advantage of this free consultation. Call 317-789-0244 today or visit <https://ripea.org/index.php/benefits/medicare-gap-programs> for more information!



# SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Primo Banquet & Conference Center  
2615 National Avenue, Indianapolis, 46227

Check a box if you wish to ride the bus. Locations must have 25 or more riders. Additional locations can be added.

South Bend       Kokomo       Muncie       Clarksville       Fort Wayne       Gary  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (city)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # (REQUIRED IF RIDING THE BUS) \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$12.00 FOR EACH ATTENDEE) \*

Please make check payable to: "RIPEA CONVENTION" and mail check and registration to:  
RIPEA, 2415 DIRECTORS ROW, SUITE M, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46241 or pay online at:

[www.ripea.org](http://www.ripea.org) under Annual Convention.

\* You do not have to be a RIPEA member to attend.

If you register and are unable to attend your registration fee will be refunded.