

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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RIPEA

Retired Indiana Public Employees Association

**Working for Your  
Retirement Today**

November 2022



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## A Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the November issue of the *Communicator*.

Medicare's Open Enrollment period is underway, through December 7. Changes are made yearly, so it's a good idea to re-evaluate your current Medicare plan to ensure it still meets your needs.

Healthcare is one of the most confusing-yet-necessary aspects of our lives. Should you have any questions regarding your Medicare plan options, please don't hesitate to call our team of Medicare Navigators at 1-800-345-9214. Their expertise is vast—and their patience is too. They look forward to hearing from you!

Until next time,

Sincerely,



**Bill Murphy, Executive Director**



## Financial assistance for the winter months

Attention Marion County RIPEA members: Please get in touch with your local Energy Assistance Provider (EAP) at [indyep.org](http://indyep.org) to apply for utility-related financial assistance, or call **317-808-2378** to schedule an appointment.

Attention all other members:  
Please visit

**[aesindiana.com/assistance-sites-outside-marion-county](http://aesindiana.com/assistance-sites-outside-marion-county)**

to find your local EAP provider to apply for utility-related financial assistance.

# WHY I DONATE TO THE RIPEA Foundation



## A testimonial from RIPEA member, Chris Bader

Dear fellow PERF retirees,

After retiring and becoming a RIPEA member, I learned all about the RIPEA Foundation—a foundation that provides financial assistance for medical and other personal expenses to members in need. Helping 1,383 RIPEA members and counting since 2001, the foundation has distributed more than \$860,000 in grant assistance.

Sadly, the financial needs of retired public employees are still too much for many members to afford on their own, causing much hardship.

I donate to the RIPEA Foundation because it gives hope and relief to those of us that need help with unexpected financial hurdles that life throws at us.

I encourage you to please join me in donating to this very worthy cause that supports our fellow RIPEA members.

Sincerely,  
Chris Bader





# Stay the course amid market volatility

What has happened in the past is likely to happen again. This fundamental investing principle is why long-term investors allocate between different asset types. So that when one asset goes down, others are likely to go down less, stay the same, or perhaps even go up.

Looking back is a good lesson to remember in volatile times because it's easy to falsely assume that the market turmoil we're currently experiencing is unprecedented! But, once again, if we look back, we realize that isn't the case.

As of October 2022, the S&P 500 (which provides a broader view of stocks compared to Dow Jones Industrials) is down over 20% from its peak. However, over the stock market's history, a 20% drop occurs on average every seven years. And fortunately, it has been fourteen years since we last saw a drop of this magnitude.

Looking back to look forward, every time the market has dropped by 20% or more, it has come roaring back. Unfortunately, it's impossible to know the timing of either drop or the recovery.

As you look at your 401k, you should consider that since the last 20% drop in 2008, the S&P 500 has grown almost 185%! So perhaps an occasional 20% drop in exchange for that type of gain is worth it.

And, I'll bet everyone though the sky was falling in 2008 too!

Tom Faulconer, JD, CFP®  
tom@transitionsfinancialindiana.com  
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# Health insurance is no joke!

RIPEA's Medicare Navigators uncomplicate it for you.

We all know that health insurance is no laughing matter, and decisions and experiences surrounding it can cause loads of stress.

One of the most important benefits available to you as a RIPEA member is our team of Medicare Navigators-- insurance experts with decades of experience who provide FREE and unbiased answers to all your Medicare and supplement questions.

Conversations with RIPEA's Medicare Navigators are informative and easy-going. They 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.

Frustrated that your premiums went up?  
Unhappy with your current plan?  
Questions about supplemental and advantage plans?

No matter the reason, call RIPEA's Medicare Navigators at 1-800-345-9214 today!



## MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL & ADVANTAGE PLANS MADE FOR YOU

Because you're a RIPEA member, you have access to some of the best insurance plans for your healthcare needs. Here are some of your biggest perks at a glance!

**RIPEA**  
Retired Indiana Public Employees Association

Working for Your Retirement Today




### SPEAK WITH A PERSON NOT A ROBOT

Call RIPEA's team of Medicare Navigators Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to get answers to your Medicare questions! This service is completely FREE.




### PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS COVERED

You will not be turned away for having pre-existing conditions, and you don't have to provide medical documentation to receive coverage. Plans span the continental U.S.



### MEDICARE F & G PLANS AVAILABLE

If Medicare does not approve a procedure after meeting a \$500 deductible, RIPEA's plan will pay 80% of the charges. Plus, you can choose your own doctor!



### PERSONAL HELP WITH YOUR CLAIMS

RIPEA's team of Medicare Navigators will fight claim rejections on your behalf and are available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This service is completely FREE!

**CALL 1-800-345-9214 TODAY!**





## RIPEA's 2023 Hearing Aid Program

If you're reading this, you've probably already felt that tug from somewhere deep inside that you should get your hearing checked. Have your friends and family been asking if you have hearing loss? Are you frustrated in noisy environments and social settings because speech sounds muddy? The sooner you take action, the better.

At RIPEA, we believe hearing loss is too important to health and well-being to let it go untreated.

You have access to a wide variety of the latest high-quality, affordable models and styles—everything from small, virtually invisible hearing aids to the newest rechargeable models that will help you stay connected to life from breakfast to bedtime.

As a RIPEA member, you can access hearing care through Hear in America®,

where you can save off the average retail price of high-quality hearing aids. As part of the program, a provider will consult with you to determine the best type and style of hearing aid to address your lifestyle and unique hearing needs.

Your hearing aid program also includes:

- 60-day, money-back trial period for exchanges and returns
- 3-year repair warranty
- 3-year loss and damage coverage
- 3 years of hearing aid cleaning and check-up service
- 3 years of free batteries

If you're experiencing hearing loss, we hope you'll take advantage of this program. To schedule a hearing exam with a provider in your area, call Hear in America® at 1-888-888-888.

## 2023 Legislative Update & Recap

As of the print date of this newsletter, a decision has not been made by the RIPEA Board of Directors regarding Legislative proposals for 2023. However, when a decision is made, we will feature it on [www.RIPEA.org](http://www.RIPEA.org) and publish it in the February 2023 Communicator newsletter.

To recap, no increase of additional income occurred in 2021, meaning no 13th check nor COLA was distributed to PERF retirees last year. However, a 1% Cost of Living Adjustment took effect in January 2022, with inflation at an all-time high. And, the Consumer Price Index (which is used annually to adjust benefits to Social Security beneficiaries) was 5.9% in 2021 and 8.7% in 2022.

## Social Security COLA set at 8.7 percent for 2023

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced an 8.7 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2023, the largest inflation-fueled increase in benefits in more than 40 years.

Starting in January, the average monthly Social Security retirement benefit will rise by about \$146, from approximately \$1,681 to \$1,827 according to the SSA.

## Medicare standard Part B premiums to drop next year

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B will be \$164.90 next year, down \$5.20 from \$170.10 in 2022, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

This is the first time in over a decade that Medicare B premiums have not increased.

