



# Macomb County Retirees Association

P.O. Box 46593 · Mount Clemens, MI 48046

## ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

September 18, 2024

American Polish Century Club

33204 Maple Lane Drive, Sterling Heights, MI

**PRESENT** Wendy Fisher, Norm Gilmore, Mary Solomon, Thomas Kalkofen, Frank Krycia, Frank Taylor County Executive Mark Hackel, Human Resources Specialist Cindy Mitchell, Pension Analyst and member Gary Cutler  
Approx. 170 in-person members and guests

### CALL TO ORDER

President Wendy Fisher called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

President Wendy Fisher welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Vice President Tom Kalkofen, who addressed the members thanking them for their attendance. He also thanked the facility staff for their work in preparing the lunch. He remarked that it was great to see so many in attendance. He acknowledged guest speaker County Executive Mark Hackel's. He recognized Human Resources Specialist Cindy Mitchell and Pension Analyst Gary Cutler. Tom continued by asking for a moment of silence to remember all retirees that had passed.

He advised that costs continue to rise regarding the newsletter and luncheon. He encouraged members to provide the Secretary with an email address to help reduce the cost of distributing the newsletter. He asked members to encourage their non-member retiree friends to join the Association.

He drew attention to the Retiree Association's revised Mission Statement and Statement of Purpose provided at the tables. He indicated there will be a continuing effort to keep those up to date as well as the By Laws in an effort to insure the relevance and longevity of the Retirees Association. He invited members to provide their name to the Secretary if they are interested in being part of the Board or volunteering with various tasks.

He concluded by introducing guest speaker County Executive Mark Hackel.

### GUEST SPEAKER: COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK HACKEL

Executive Mark Hackel greeted everyone and commented that as a retiree himself, that their interests are his interests. He shared some personal anecdotes of his childhood growing up in the area.

He addressed the issue of a supplemental 13<sup>th</sup> pension payment saying, "it is under consideration" but advised that it will be paid only if fiscally responsible without negatively impacting the long-term viability of the pension system. He continued by assuring the members that retiree health care is fully funded as well as the pension system.

He spoke about the County's project to construct a new jail facility. He noted that the current facility was built over several decades with the newest tower being built in the 1970's. The older wings of the facility will be replaced by the new building project. He recognized the contributions of retiree Donald Amboyer who has volunteered his time to consult on the new jail project. The new facility will enhance the County's ability to provide mental health and substance abuse treatment to offenders.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary Gilmore reported that the current membership total is 816, representing an increase of approximately 20 over the previous year. 55 new members have joined since the last annual meeting. As of June 30, 2024, 18 members passed away. However, 61 members did not renew their dues for 2024. He encouraged members to tell their retiree friends to join the Association.

He continued by advising on the two methods of paying annual dues: by mail and online. He noted it has become less expensive to renew online due to rising postage costs. About half of the payments received were made online last year. He commented that PayPal is only used to process financial transactions and that it is not necessary for members to have a PayPal account and may use credit or debit cards to pay dues online.

Secretary Gilmore spoke about the Retiree Connection newsletter. He stated the next issue is due to be published for November, but the email version should be sent around mid-October. There are approximately 305 members receiving the eNews newsletter by email. He encouraged the members to provide an email address and opt for the eNews version to help reduce printing and postage costs. He added that having an email also makes it possible to send notifications and confirmations like dues payments received.

A motion to receive and file the Secretary's report made by Bill Hackel with support from Andrea Figurski carried by unanimous consent.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice President Tom Kalkofen took a moment to introduce each of the Board members: President Wendy Fisher, Vice President Tom Kalkofen, Director Mary Solomon, Treasurer Tracy Howard, Director Frank Krycia, Director Frank Taylor and Secretary Norm Gilmore.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Tracy Howard reported that as of the previous annual meeting the Association had an open balance of \$20,818.66. The MCRA received income of \$9,499.94 (including membership dues and interest) and expenses of \$11,363.31 (including postage, printing, office supplies, trivia contest prizes, luncheon expenses, officer honorariums, memorial gifts, etc.) The closing balance on hand as of August 30, 2024, is \$18,955.29.

A motion to receive and file the Treasurer's report made by Sue Socia-Wallace with support from Karen Phillips carried by unanimous consent.

### **RETIREMENT SERVICES UPDATES**

Macomb County Human Resources Specialist Cindy Mitchell provided a couple of updates. Open enrollment will take place November 30 through December 15. No action is needed if no member changes are requested. The County will host a holiday retiree luncheon on December 10<sup>th</sup> at

Zucarro's Banquet Center from 11am to 3pm. Invitations will be sent the first week of November. There will be options to pay at the door or pay in advance online. Retirement Services is also looking into the possibility of hosting a Jimmy John's Ballpark event next year.

#### **RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATUS**

Pension System Analyst and member Gary Cutler reported retiree health care is fully funded and the pension fund is just over 100% funded by \$1.2 billion in assets. He advised that approximately 30 retirees have not returned their signature verification form. Those retirees may have their pensions suspended in October until they submit their verification forms.

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Secretary Gilmore explained that the seven Board Directors serve alternating 2-year terms. This year, two Directors terms expire as of December 31, 2024. The current Directors, Wendy Fisher and Tracy Howard, have indicated willingness to serve an additional term and are nominated. He opened the floor to any additional nominations; however no additional nominations were made.

A motion to elect Wendy Fisher and Tracy Howard as Board Directors for the term from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027, made by Bill Hackel with support carried by unanimous consent.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn made by Sue Socia-Wallace with support from Diane Ehrler carried by unanimous consent. The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman Gilmore, Secretary