

August 2026



**President**

WENDY FISHER  
wendy@retirement-online.com  
586-770-6751

**Vice-President**

TOM KALKOFEN  
tommargek@comcast.net  
586-651-0294

**Secretary**

NORM GILMORE  
secretary@macombretirees.org  
586-604-9577

**Treasurer**

TRACY HOWARD  
treasurer@macombretirees.org  
586-306-4063

**Directors**

FRANK KRYCIA  
fkrycia@yahoo.com  
FRANK TAYLOR  
frankt1952@gmail.com  
DONNA CANGEMI  
cangemi@aol.com

**Newsletter Editor**

NORM GILMORE  
editor@macombretirees.org

**Macomb County  
Retirement Services  
586-469-5113**

Pension Inquires    Direct Deposits  
Withholding        Report Deaths  
Medical Dental     Vision Hearing  
1099R questions call 586-469-5250

**On the Calendar**

Sep 7    Labor Day  
Sep 13   National Grandparents Day  
Sep 16   Annual Member Luncheon  
          Century Banquet Center  
Oct 12   Columbus Day  
Oct 14   MCRA Board of Directors  
          10AM Talmar Bldg 2nd floor  
Oct 31   Halloween  
Nov 3   Election Day  
Nov 11   Veteran's Day

**RETIREMENT BOARD**

Aug 13, 27; Sep 10, 24; Oct 8, 22  
8:30AM Admin Building

**Contest Winner**

Congratulations to the winner  
of our trivia contest:

**Diane Shinska**

If you didn't win this time,  
try again. You'll find the new  
contest on page 4.

# Retiree Connection

A Quarterly Newsletter Published by the Macomb County Retirees Association

## Annual Member Luncheon Meeting

**11:30AM Wed, Sept. 16**  
(doors open at 11am)

**Century Banquet Center**  
33204 Maple Lane  
Sterling Heights, MI  
North of 14 Mile Rd.

between VanDyke and Schoenherr

**Luncheon \$10.00 per member**

**Charge \$26.00 per guest**

**Reservation deadline August 31**

**Pay online at:**

[macombretirees.org/lunch.html](http://macombretirees.org/lunch.html)

**Pay by mail:**

Include your name and write  
"Lunch" on the memo line.

Mail your payment to:

Macomb County Retirees Assoc.

PO Box 46593

Mount Clemens, MI 48046

**Please note:** You may pay your  
2027 dues with your luncheon  
reservation using the same  
check. Just write "Dues &  
Lunch" on the memo line.

The annual member meeting  
is your opportunity to enjoy a  
great lunch, socialize with your  
retiree friends, catch up on  
County news and elect  
MCRA Directors for 2027.

**New this year will be a 50/50  
style raffle in addition to the  
usual four \$25 cash prize  
drawings. Strips of 6 tickets  
for \$5 will be available. You  
must be present to win.**

**A vote will be taken during  
the meeting prior to the  
luncheon regarding By Laws  
amendments proposed by  
the Board of Directors. See  
page 3 for details on the  
proposed By Laws changes.**

If you are willing to assist  
with luncheon set up, contact  
the MCRA secretary at:  
secretary@macombretirees.org

## Did You Know?

- The Macomb County Retirees Assoc. is a federal 501(c)7 nonprofit organization.
- Update your email and newsletter delivery preference at:  
[macombretirees.org/email.html](http://macombretirees.org/email.html)

## 2027 Dues

Dues remain just \$10 per year.  
To avoid disruption in  
receiving your newsletter,  
pay next year's dues by  
December 31<sup>st</sup>. Additionally,  
your dues help support the  
MCRA's primary mission of  
being your retiree advocate.

To pay dues online visit:

[macombretirees.org/dues.html](http://macombretirees.org/dues.html)

Or mail \$10 payable to:

Macomb County Retirees Assoc.

PO Box 46593

Mount Clemens, MI 48046

(Please include your name)

## Retirement Services Staffing Changes

In June 2026, Human Resources  
Specialist Cynthia Mitchell  
herself retired from Macomb  
County Retirement Services.  
However, she will continue  
helping out on a part-time  
basis for the next few  
months. We congratulate her  
and wish her well in her  
retirement. DeeAnn Irby has  
been hired to fill her  
position.

Junee O'Connell (DeBuck) has  
been promoted to Benefits  
Administrator to replace  
Jenifer Smiley who recently  
resigned.

Human Resources Assistants  
Jennifer Frounfelker and  
Holly Grant continue in their  
positions. Many thanks to  
all who work in Macomb  
County Retirement Services  
to help our retiree members.

## Member Luncheon Cost Increase

After many years, inflation has  
increased the contribution for  
the annual luncheon to \$10.  
It's still a bargain considering  
the full cost of the luncheon is  
over \$26 per plate.

The Retirees Assoc. subsidizes  
the remainder of the cost  
for it's members with guests  
paying the full value. The  
member luncheon contribution  
was increased so that annual  
dues could remain at \$10.

## President's Viewpoint

*by Wendy Fisher, MCRA President*

Today, I have one simple question for retirees:

How are you?

I would love to hear from you. Please email me your thoughts  
on Retirement. Are you content? Are you happy with life?  
How busy are you, or not? Do you have purpose in  
retirement? How do you spend your time?

Do you travel, have you found a new hobby, do you  
contemplate life, have you taken classes, joined a group?

Send me an email ([wendy@retirement-online.com](mailto:wendy@retirement-online.com)) and tell me  
about your life. I'm very curious how everybody's getting  
along...

Best wishes!



## Congratulations Recent Retirees

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Brand, Richard P      | Sheriff's Office    |
| Butler, Georgiann     | Finance             |
| Hagerty, Karen        | Finance             |
| Harvey, Gina M.       | Health Department   |
| Johns, Mary T         | Comm Mental Health  |
| Jones, Cassandra L.   | Comm Mental Health  |
| Laws, Donna I.        | Macomb Comm Action  |
| Lesinski, Robert R.   | Sheriff's Office    |
| Miscovich, Thomas P.  | Sheriff's Office    |
| Mitchell, Cynthia J.  | Human Resources     |
| Noteboom, Carrie A    | Department of Roads |
| Oliver, John W.       | Sheriff's Office    |
| Oppat, Robert J       | Circuit Court       |
| Pecha, Matthew J      | Sheriff's Office    |
| Raymo, John P         | Sheriff's Office    |
| Todd, Ann R.          | ETA                 |
| Zabicki, Kimberly A.  | Martha T Berry      |
| Zichi-Buyle, Nancy A. | Comm Mental Health  |

### Save the Date!

## Annual County Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Zuccaros Banquet Center

## Volunteer Recruitment Fair

The Macomb County Office of Senior Services will be hosting a Volunteer Recruitment Fair on Friday, September 11 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Macomb Mall located at 32233 Gratiot Avenue in Roseville. This free event is part of the nationwide Day of Service and is intended to help pay tribute to and honor the victims and heroes of 9/11 by promoting year-round volunteerism rather than single-day volunteer engagements.

Representatives from over 20 local non-profit and government organizations that are seeking volunteers will be on-hand to provide information on their volunteer opportunities and answer questions. Anyone who is interested in volunteer work is encouraged to

attend; registration to attend is not required. To learn more, visit the [Office of Senior Services Volunteer web page](#).

"The residents and employees of Macomb County have a long tradition of stepping up to support their neighbors through volunteer service that makes a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families," said Sheila Cote, Director of the Macomb County Office of Senior Services. "We invite everyone to attend, especially those who are interested in volunteering but are looking for an opportunity that matches their interests, skills, and schedule. There will be something for everyone."

## MESSAGES

**ELSIE MANCHESTER** (Probate Wills & Estates) Richmond, MI: Once again, I'm enjoying our spring season. Seeing spring flowers in bloom after a harsh winter is so refreshing. Also enjoying my favorite birds, robins. Thank you to everyone who works hard to make our retirement secure. I like reading the newsletter with all the updates.

**SHARON SMITH** (CMH) Imlay City, MI: This summer I am looking forward to a Viking cruise from Spain to Iceland. In October, we had a grandson get married. This month, our grandson and his new wife are moving to Arizona. That will give us another destination for us to travel to. I hope all the retired moms had a wonderful Mother's Day. Wishing all the retired dad's a happy Father's Day next month.

**LINDA WASCHE** (Comm Mental Health) Mt Clemens, MI: Had shoulder surgery in March and now in recovery. A slower process than I realized. Been reading a lot, trying to set up new TV (I'm

not techy) and walking when weather permits. Will join YMCA When doc says OK.

**SHARON KIRBY-AGEE** (Finance) Croswell, MI: My oldest son, Tim, has been living with me for quite a while—most of his things are here. In April he went down to Mt. Clemens to get the last of his stuff so we could sell his house. He had a heart attack, stroke, and had blood clots in his heart and brain. A few days later, we let him go. It's been so hard. I lost my youngest son in 2016 and now my oldest 10 years later. We can't sell his house or trucks until Probate Court. I'm living on memories and my middle son is a lot of help. He [Tim] was only 60. the last picture I have of him is from the day his dog died about 2 months ago. Please send prayers to help me get through this. Thank you.

**ALAN KITAMURA** (Roads) Willow Springs, IL: I retired in May 1992 when it was the Road Commission. In 2019, my wife and I moved to Illinois to be near our youngest daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter (age 10)

## For Your Health

### Fourth Annual Health and Wellness Fair

Macomb County will welcome residents, families, and community partners to the Fourth Annual Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) located at 44001 Garfield Rd. in Clinton Township. All are welcome to attend this free event.

Attendees can enjoy a wide variety of free activities and services, including health screenings, wellness resources, educational sessions, food, and family-friendly entertainment. In addition, all attendees will also receive a Wellness

Resource Guide to help them stay connected to services and support long after the event.

Come out, bring your family and friends, and enjoy a welcoming, supportive environment dedicated to wellness in Macomb County.

For more information, visit the event webpage at

<https://www.macombgov.org/event/macomb-county-health-and-wellness-fair>

or call the Macomb County Community Mental Health Customer Service Line at

855-99-MCCMH

(855-996-2264)

## MESSAGES

(Continued from page 2)

and grandson (age 7). We spend our summers in Illinois and winters at our condo in Rotonda West, FL. We also have a son in Winter Park, FL and a daughter and daughter-in-law in Austin, TX. In January, all three of our children and our grandson came to Florida to help me celebrate my 90th birthday. We had a very nice dinner at a local restaurant. I received 115 birthday cards plus numerous emails, text messages, letters, phone calls, Facebook messages and gifts. There was a luncheon held at our church and a celebration at our Homeowner's Association Clubhouse. Many of my former co-workers at the Road Commission joined in the fun. Cards came from Diane & Pat Herrick, Debbie Scully, Joyce Solinski, Tammy Goike, Sandra Albrecht, Mark Logsdon and John & Arlene Zoccola. We were met for an enjoyable lunch by Herrick's, Zoccola's, Lou and Donna Guiette and Vic & Denise Strek. It was wonderful to be remembered by so many people - family, friends, and associates.

**SANDRA WILLS** (MTB)  
Cleveland, TN: We had family from Texas and Michigan for our great grandson's high school graduation. May and June I was in the hospital twice, I am home getting better daily. Nothing broken. My dog was glad when I came home.

## NOTICE—Proposed By Laws Amendments

At the annual meeting on September 16, 2026, the general membership will vote on the following By Laws changes proposed by the Board of Directors. Please note that below the intent of amendment is **in bold type**, ~~replaced text is struck out~~, *new text is in italics* and unchanged text is in normal typeface.

The full current By Laws can be found at <https://macombretirees.org/documents/BYLAWS.pdf>

### Explicitly allow electronic communications

Throughout the By Laws modify all references of "written notice" to read "written notice (*printed or electronic*)" and all references of "mailed" to read "*sent*".

### Allow email notices

#### ARTICLE 1 MEETINGS

##### Section 9. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF BOARD

[language before 5th sentence remains unchanged]... ~~Every notice shall be deemed duly served when same has been deposited in the United States mail with postage fully prepaid, plainly addressed to the sendee at his/her last address as it appears on the membership record of this Association and/or its Directors. All notices shall be deemed duly served when sent to the recipient's address on record via email or when deposited in the United States mail.~~ This notice clause shall apply to all notices sent in accordance with these By Laws.

### Set a minimum quorum for members and allow participation by remote connection

#### ARTICLE 2 QUORUM

##### Section 1. QUORUM OF MEMBERS

Presence in person or by proxy of ~~members representing a majority of the voting rights~~ *at least 50 members* of this Association shall constitute a quorum at any such meeting of the members.

##### Section 2. QUORUM OF DIRECTORS

A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum.

##### Section 3. PARTICIPATION

*Any Director or authorized member may participate in meetings of the Board of Directors or membership meetings by telephone, videoconference, or other electronic means that allows all participants to hear one another simultaneously. Participation by such means shall be deemed equivalent to attendance in person for purposes of establishing a quorum and voting.*

### Clarify how dues paid after annual meeting are applied

#### ARTICLE 7 MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

A person to be qualified for membership in this association shall: be eligible to receive a benefit from the Macomb County Retirement System whether still working or retired; or be a designated beneficiary qualified to receive survivor benefits under the retirement ordinance.

A qualified person who applies for membership in this Association and makes payment of the annual dues, is automatically a member of the Association. The dues for all members shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per year subject to change at each annual meeting of the membership.

~~Dues shall be payable annually on or before the Annual Meeting of that year. Dues paid after the Annual Meeting shall be applied to the following year.~~ Dues are applied on a calendar year basis. Dues are not prorated and must be current to attend the annual meeting at the member price. Payments made at or after the annual meeting by members in good standing and new members will be applied to the following calendar year. Payments made at the annual meeting by members not in good standing will be applied to the current year.

## Your Membership Information

Update your information at:  
**[macombretirees.org/update.html](https://macombretirees.org/update.html)**  
or write in any corrections and mail

NAME

CITY, STATE

EMAIL ADDRESS

DEPARTMENT RETIRED FROM

## POST A MESSAGE IN THE NEXT RETIREE CONNECTION!

Please note: Messages may be edited due to space limitations.

Submit via the MCRA website at [macombretirees.org/message.html](https://macombretirees.org/message.html)

No Internet access? Mail this form to: MCRA, P.O. Box 46593, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Advantages of Newsletter by Email

- Arrives earlier than print copy
- Same content as print edition
- Interactive hyperlink text
- Reduces printing and postage costs
- Receive it anywhere by email
- A great option if you are away from home part of the year

Set email and delivery options at:

[macombretirees.org/email.html](http://macombretirees.org/email.html)

## In Memoriam

|                            |         |                         |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Altus, Linda               | 4/27/26 | Comm Mental Health      |
| Baker, Judith*             | 5/24/26 | Health Department       |
| Baker, Michael             | 6/20/26 | Health Department       |
| Curatolo, Karen            | 4/19/26 | Juvenile Justice Center |
| Fox, Sheila                | 4/30/26 | Comm Mental Health      |
| Hartwig, Thomas            | 5/17/26 | Senior Services         |
| Marshall, Judith*          | 5/6/26  | Comm Mental Health      |
| Moons-Boddington, Marianne | 6/18/26 | Health Department       |
| Prusik, Josephine*         | 4/24/26 | County Clerk            |
| Quigley, Kathleen          | 5/12/26 | Prosecuting Attorney    |
| Ricker, Martha             | 5/3/26  | Circuit Court           |
| Tarkowski, Robert*         | 6/12/26 | Sheriff's Office        |
| Wargel, James              | 6/12/26 | Comm Mental Health      |

\*MCRA Members

## Open Enrollment coming in Oct/Nov

Watch for dates to be announced



Macomb County Retirees Association

P.O. Box 46593

Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MT. CLEMENS, MI  
PERMIT NO. 125

## Brain Teasers

1. There are 3 cows, 2 dogs and 1 cat. How many legs do you have?
2. If I am holding a bee, what do I have in my eye?
3. During which month do people sleep the least?
4. You're in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas lamp. You have only one match. What do you light first?

Answers:

1. Most people have 2 legs.
2. Beauty is in the eye of the
3. February has fewer nights.
4. The match.

## Humor

"I'm on a strict diet. I never eat between snacks."

The only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions.

There was a man who was watching his weight. It was easy because it was right there in front where he could keep an eye on it.

Postcard from vacationing senior: "Wish you were here. By the way, where am I?"

"I put my shoes on the wrong feet. But I can't remember whose feet I put them on."

## TRIVIA CONTEST: The lucky entry wins a check for \$25

Submit your entry via the MCRA website at [macombretirees.org/trivia.html](http://macombretirees.org/trivia.html)

No Internet access? Mail this form to: MCRA, P.O. Box 46593, Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Entries must be received by

**September 30, 2026**

**YOUR ANSWERS:**

1. Who is looking forward to a Viking cruise from Spain to Iceland this summer? 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who has been reading a lot after having shoulder surgery? 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the date of the 2026 annual member luncheon? 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who received 115 birthday cards and numerous messages for his 90th birthday? 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the Macomb County Retirement Services phone number? 5. \_\_\_\_\_