

MEA-RETIRED TRIBUNE

OCTOBER 2019

Who needs “latte funds” anyway?

While the November 2020 election may seem many months away, we’ll be looking at the Election Day date on the page-a-day calendar much more quickly than we can imagine. While we are pleased that we and other Michigan voters elected a pro-public education governor when Gretchen Whitmer took office, we must work to get individuals in the House and Senate—both in Lansing and Washington, D.C.—who will do what must be done for the students of this state and country.

As many a speaker has said at various MEA events, MEA members are busier than ever, serving our students throughout the state all day, Monday through Friday, and often spending countless hours to prepare for a day’s work. WE, the members of MEA-Retired, are the “daytime faces of MEA” who lobby legislators, give of themselves to work on political campaigns, write compelling letters to editors of publications, volunteer for many important causes and support our active members.

We all know that in order for our pro-public education candidates to conduct successful campaigns for office, they must have the resources to do so. We give our time, our talents and our tenacity; we must also support with funds that will ensure that those who support our students and staff can claim victory next November.

Invite a friend over for a steaming cup of Joe instead of going out for a latte. If every MEA-Retired member did that once a month for the next year and donated those unused “latte funds” to PAC, what a difference that would make.

New Optum Rx cards do NOT affect benefits

Due to a system update, if you use Optum Rx for your prescriptions, you are receiving a new set of ID cards. This new card will not affect your 2019 pharmacy benefit in any way. The BIN, PCN, and RxGroup listed on your card have changed, and this will require some action from you, the member.

When you receive your new card, please do the following:

- Discard your old ID cards and begin carrying the new card enclosed with this letter.
- During your next trip to the pharmacy, bring your new ID card and present it at the pharmacy to fill your medications.
- If you use Mail order or a specialty pharmacy, please indicate your new card info on your next order.
- Login to the Optum Member Portal to re-register your online account. Once you re-register, any history will transfer and the online experience will be the same as it was in the past.

We are here to help, and are committed to helping you live a healthier life. If you have questions, please call us at 1-866-288-5209. The Optum Rx member service representatives are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you.

Updates to your 2020 retirement system health care coverage

The Office of Retirement Services (ORS) works on your behalf to maintain a quality health care plan that's affordable and provides the services you need to live a longer, healthier life. The fall 2019 edition of *Best of Health* contains details about the changes to your retirement system health care coverage. The following are highlights of the updates that will be effective on January 1, 2020:

MEDICARE MEMBERS	
MEDICAL Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Michigan (BCBSM) <i>Have questions? Call Blue Cross at 1-800-422-9146 or visit bcbsm.com/mpsers</i>	Coverage will be added for online visits (e-visits). You pay a 10 percent coinsurance and the annual deductible applies. The lifetime coverage maximum for outpatient services not covered by Original Medicare will increase from \$1 million per member to \$2.5 million per member. In-home skilled private duty nursing will no longer be covered.
PRESCRIPTION OptumRx® <i>Have questions? Call OptumRx at 1-855-577-6517 or visit www.optumrx.com</i>	The annual coinsurance maximum will be increased to \$1,750 per member. The 31-day drug minimum will be \$15 and maximum \$45, and the 90-day drug minimum will be \$37.50 and maximum \$112.50.

NON-MEDICARE MEMBERS	
MEDICAL Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Michigan (BCBSM) <i>Have questions? Call Blue Cross at 1-800-422-9146 or visit bcbsm.com/mpsers</i>	Coverage will be added for online visits (e-visits), Hepatitis B and pneumonia vaccines. You pay a 10 percent coinsurance for online visits and the annual deductible applies. There's no cost to you for the Hepatitis B and pneumonia shots. The lifetime coverage maximum for outpatient services will increase from \$1 million per member to \$2.5 million per member. In-home skilled private duty nursing will no longer be covered.
PRESCRIPTION OptumRx® <i>Have questions? Call OptumRx at 1-866-288-5209 or visit www.optumrx.com</i>	Coverage will be expanded to include some additional vaccines. The annual coinsurance maximum will be increased to \$1,750 per member. The 31-day drug minimum will be \$15 and maximum \$45, and the 90-day drug minimum will be \$37.50 and maximum \$112.50.

