

MEA-Retired Tribune

September 2017



GREAT NEWS

Those retirees who have not fully paid their MEA-Retired dues-- there is now a recurring payment option. Non-active members can elect to have their monthly MEA-Retired payment automatically deducted from their credit card or bank account. All they have to do is provide their payment method and it will be stored in netFORUM (Membership will enter it). The payment will be withdrawn on a monthly basis until the MEA-Retired balance is paid in full or until the member cancels the auto-payments.

This is great news for those who feel they can't make a large payment and for those who did not pay into AIM but want to join. For many, the lifetime membership of \$450 is a big fee to pay all at one time. Look for more information soon.

Freedom of Information

The Office of Retirement Services (ORS) recently received a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from American Transparency.

The request specifically asks for each retiree's name, pension amount, and retirement effective date. Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (Act 442 of 1976), which is intended to ensure that citizens have access to information about their government, requires ORS to comply with this request and others that may be submitted. ORS will never release sensitive information such as Social Security numbers, dates of birth, contact information, beneficiary information, or medical records.

Excessive costs of older prescription drugs cost Medicaid billions

An increase in the cost of older, even generic drugs, has cost Medicaid billions of dollars according to an analysis by Kaiser Health News. The report shows that the rise in the cost of 313 name brand drugs cost Medicaid over \$3 billion more in 2016 compared to 2015. A rise in the price of generic and non-brand drugs cost the government \$258 million more in just a year. The prices of 30% of prescription drugs have increased 100% or more in the past five years. The increase in Medicaid payments is shouldered by taxpayers, leaving states with less ability to fund other essential services. Generic drug prices can rise for a number of reasons, including a lack of an essential ingredient or as a result of companies choosing to end production when the profit margin is too low. "Lowering prescription drug prices should be one of the core goals of every politician in America," said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance. "Rising drug costs hurt taxpayers who are paying for the outrageous profits of pharmaceutical corporations and the enormous salaries and bonuses of pharmaceutical executives."



TruHearing vendor for hearing aids in 2018

Thanks to Jim Pearson, MEA-Retired member, for attending the MPSERS meetings for the following information: On August 3rd the MPSERS Board chose TruHearing to be the sole provider for hearing aids to our retirees. For those who use hearing aids this a BIG change. You might consider contacting these folks to ask them to send a representative to one of your meetings. By looking at their website,

<https://www.truhearing.com/> , you can find the closest location near you.

TUTORING OPPORTUNITY

The Student Connection is looking for tutors who love to help students learn. We serve all types and ages of learners. We are seeking tutors in a wide range of subjects- math, foreign languages, English, writing and test prep- HSPT, SAT, ACT, GRE. Teacher certification and college graduates preferred, but if you are a grad student or education student that has the ability to relate to learners of all styles and has great communication skills- we'd love to hear from you too. Must be willing to work nights and weekends but you set your hours. Compensation dependent on education and experience.

Info@thestudentconnect.com

or submit online

www.thestudentconnect.com

or phone 248-326-6034

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CSR PENSION ACTION DAY

**JOIN US TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST MAJOR REFORMS TO
PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS AND RETIREMENT SECURITY**

TUESDAY September 26, 2017

REGISTRATION AT 8:30 a.m.

MACKINAC ROOM OF THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

124 N. CAPITOL AVE. LANSING



RSVP to COUTNEY OR CARA AT 517-372-086

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND THE ECLIPSE

On June 20, 1503 a shipworm infestation caused two of Columbus' four ships to flounder near Jamaica and the remaining two ships were barely afloat. Over time the natives became unhappy with Columbus' crew, which had committed various crimes against them, including stealing supplies. By January, the natives became unwilling to even trade with the stranded travelers. Fortunately, Columbus had in his possession an almanac predicting a total lunar eclipse on February 29, 1504, which allowed him to calculate the commencement and approximate duration of the eclipse. Columbus met with the chiefs and told them that his god was angry with them for refusing to help him and his sailors, and would cause the moon to disappear. He timed this well. Columbus said he would intercede on behalf of the natives and went onto the ship where he stayed until the almanac's 48-minute calculation of when the eclipse would begin to end. After 48 minutes he came from the ship and informed the natives that he had successfully interceded on their behalf. Following this occurrence he had no further problem getting necessary provisions.

When a student asks how science or math is useful, this is a concrete example of using both science and math to solve a life and death problem. For a more complete account of this event go to <http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2012/02/this-day-in-history-christopher-columb-tricks-native-jamaicans-into-giving-him-supplies-by-using-his-knowledge-of-an-upcoming-lunar-eclipse/>

MPERS FALL HEALTH CARE SEMINARS 2017

Dates	Locations	Venue
10-Oct	Escanaba	Terrace Bay Hotel 7146 P Rd. Gladstone, MI. 49837
11-Oct	Marquette	Masonic Center 128 W. Washington Street Marquette, MI. 49855
12-Oct	Alpena	Aplex-Alpena Events Center 701 Woodward Ave. Alpena, MI. 49707
13-Oct	Williamsburg (Traverse City)	Williamsburg Event Center 4240 M72 East Williamsburg, MI. 49690
16-Oct	Flint	Holiday Inn Gateway Centre Flint 5353 Gateway Centre Flint, MI. 48507
17-Oct	Clare (Mt. Pleasant)	Doherty Hotel 604 North McEwan Street Clare, MI. 48617
18-Oct	Grand Rapids	Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park 1000 East Beltline Ave NE Grand Rapids, MI. 49525
19-Oct	Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo Expo Center 2900 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI. 49048
20-Oct	Lansing	Eagle Eye Golf Club 15500 Chandler Rd Bath Twp, MI 48808
24-Oct	Detroit	Greater Grace Temple 23500 West Seven Mile Road Detroit, MI. 48219
25-Oct	Livonia	Burton Manor 27777 Schoolcraft Road Livonia, MI. 48150
26-Oct	Riverview/Southgate	Holiday Inn Southgate 17201 Northline Road Southgate, MI. 48195
30-Oct	Sterling Heights	Wyndham Garden Sterling Heights 34911 Van Dyke Ave Sterling Heights, MI. 48312



Medicare Reminder

Medicare covers emergency room services everywhere in the United States. You will pay a copayment for these services, which are considered outpatient hospital treatment. If you are admitted to the hospital, you or your supplemental insurance must pay for the Part A deductible and coinsurance.

If you are a member of a Medicare private health plan, such as an HMO, you have a right to receive emergency care anywhere in the United States regardless of whether the hospital or provider is in the plan's network. You do not need a referral from your primary care doctor first. Even if you receive emergency department services from an out-of-network provider, you cannot be billed more than the lesser of \$50 or the in-network cost for emergency services. Your plan must also cover all medically necessary follow-up care relating to the medical emergency if delaying the care would endanger your health. If your plan does not pay for your emergency care, you have the right to appeal.

Medicare, or your Medicare private health plan, must cover the emergency services even if your condition, which appeared to be an emergency, turned out not to be an emergency. For example, you had chest pain and thought you were having a heart attack, but at the emergency room the doctors said you just had heartburn.

Even if you do not have any health insurance, you still have the right under federal law to receive medical care in the case of an emergency regardless of your ability to pay.