Volume 24, Issue 4
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December 2008

## Director's Report



Thanksgiving has come and gone and the holidays and end of the year and the New Year is just around the corner. It's hard to believe that another year has gone by. So much has happened this year both good and bad and happy and sad. We have a new Retiree representative on the Board. Julia Goodman is stepping down after many years of faithful service and Elizabeth "Betty" Misuraca has been elected to take her place starting January 1, 2009. Congratulations Betty and a big THANK YOU and BEST WISHES to Julia.

In the Spring Messenger I had put a telephone answering machine "Voice Message" pertaining to various types of mental health issues. It was not meant to offend but I did get negative feedback from one retiree. I also received an article from another retiree requesting that I include it as education on the personal side of mental illness and to let people see how the world looks from a different perspective. I have attached the article at the end of my article. I would encourage you to read it and hopefully take the message to heart. Thank you to Marge Brown, wife of Glenn Brown, for submitting the article and my apologies for not getting it into the last Messenger. (continued on page 10)

## Eloise Books and Note cards

Two books (Eloise and Detroit's Hospital, Healers and Helpers) containing photos of Eloise, both published by Arcadia, are available in local bookstores, on-line at www.amazon.com and www.bn.com and at the Eloise Museum. The first book Eloise: Poorhouse, Farm, Asylum and Hospital 1839.-1984 is also being sold by Jo Johnson as a fundraiser for Friends of Eloise. The Eloise book is now in the 7th printing. The hospital book is in the 2 nd printing


Photo Courtesy of The Detroit News archives
Assorted note cards with attractive old photos of Eloise are available through Friends of Eloise. Many are in color and would make a nice gift. They are being sold for $\$ 2$ each or 3 for $\$ 5$. For more information on the books or note cards contact Jo Johnson at (734) 522-3918 or by e-mail at ewjohnson7@aol.com.

## Inside this Edition

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Changes in your life may have an impact on your retirement benefits, please remember to contact our office if you have experienced any of the following:

- Marriage
- Divorce
- Death
- Address Change
- Birth of Child
- Power of Attorney



## Office Directory

General Information
Main (313) 224-5890


Toll Free (888) 600-6033
Fax Number (313) 224-1917
Email: webmaster@wcers.org

## Payroll

Lost Check (313) 224-2774
Direct Deposit (313) 224-2354
Taxes (313) 224-2354
Garnishments (313) 224-2354


## Insurance

Health (313) 224-7721
Dental (313) 224-7721
Vision (313) 224-7721
Life Insurance (313) 224-5572

## Messenger Submissions

If you have any information you would like to have posted in "The Messenger", it must be submitted in writing and received in our office no later then February 01, 2009.

The next "Messenger " will be the
March issue.

## Brain Teaser-Answer from September Issue

Questions: Missing Dollar

3 men go into a motel. The man behind the desk said the room is US $\$ 30$, so each man paid US $\$ 10$ and went to their room.

A while later the man behind the desk realized the room was only US $\$ 25$, so he sent the bellboy to the 3 guys' room with US\$5. On the way, the bellboy couldn't figure out how to split US\$5 evenly between 3 men, so he decides to give each man US\$1 and kept the other US $\$ 2$ for himself.

This meant that the 3 men each paid US\$9 for the room, which is a total of US\$27. Add the US\$2 that the bellboy kept brings the total to US\$29.

Where is the other dollar!?
Answer: The Missing Dollar
Well okay. If I have to.
The full answer is as follows:
The men each paid US\$9 for the room or US\$27 total. The hotel got US $\$ 25$ and the bellboy got US\$2. $25+2=27$. It's a trick question and the 30 is not the goal. Or you can say each man initially paid US\$ 10 and had US\$1 returned to them. $30-3=27=25+2$.

Don't you wish you'd hung in there some more?

## Taxes



## WCGH 24th Holiday Reunion

Please join us to kick off the holiday season with the 24th WCGH Holiday Reunion on Tuesday, December 2 , 2008! It will be held in a private dining room at the Golden Corral Buffet on Warren Ave. in Westland from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tell the cashier you are with the Wayne County group.

## GAA Retirees

The GAA Retirees meet in January, March, May, July, September, and November. We meet at:

Hawthorne Valley at 1:00 p.m.
7500 Merriman Rd. (N of Warren Rd) Westland, MI.

Members buy their own lunch and the meetings follow. This is a great opportunity to stay in touch with fellow GAA retirees and make new friends. Dues are $\$ 10$ per year and we hold our annual holiday luncheon in November (free of charge to members in good standing). We invite all GAA retirees to come join us! For further information regarding membership, send your name and address to:

Sandy O'Leary, GAA Retirees Secretary
39815 Lynn St.
Canton, MI 48187

## Friends of Eloise

The friends of Eloise meets monthly (except July, August and December) on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Westland Historic Village on Wayne Road between Cherry Hill and Marquette. We are looking for any old records or memorabilia pertaining to Eloise that may be in your attic, basement, or garage.

## Office Closed

12/24/2008 Christmas Eve
12/25/2008 Christmas
12/26/2008
12/29/2008
12/30/2008
12/31/2008 New Years Eve 01/01/2009 New Years Day

## Happy Holidays

The staff of the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System would like to extend Holiday wishes to you and your families this season. Remember to be safe and have fun.

## Obituaries

We, the staff of the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System express our deepest sympathy to the families of the following deceased individuals

METZ, JAMES
ADAMS, LILLIAN***JOHN
FRITZ, MURIEL*** WILLIAM
DILKS, RICHARD
HEARDZ, HARRIETTE*** WILLIAM SIKKELEE, SHIRLEY* ROBERT
WELK, JOAN
SNELL, THOMAS
KELLER, DIANA
SZYMANSKI, ADAM
VANANTWERP, NANCY* GEORGE
KENNEDY, WINIFRED
KITTO, JENNIE***JAMES
KEKES, IRENE***STEPHEN
NULER, ERIC
SARNACKI, HELEN*** STANLEY
WARDLAW, DORRIS
SINGER, CLINTON
CONSTANTYN, MARIA*** VICTOR
McGILL, WILLIAM
FORTINTOS, HELEN*** ALBERT
BARDON, BETTY* ROBERT
HAWKES, CLINTON
PODSIADLIK, MAMIE
CICHON, EDWARD
PARDON, WILLIAM
ROHDE JR, JOSEPH
WHITE, MILDRED
NELSON, BESSIE*** EDD
SLATER, THERESA
SLYKE, ESSIE*** JOHNNIE
VON EPER, RUTH*** JAMES
MARTIN, PATRICIA*** GORDON
ROSS, BERNARD
CARNEY, PATRICIA* JOHN
O'NEIL, MARY*** HAROLD
CAZIER, GENEVIEVE* DUWAYNE

PROSECUTOR OFF.
ROADS
PROSECUTOR OFF.
WCGH
POLICE OFFICER
DPS
DEFERRED
AA/ DEPT.MANAGER
MANAGEMENT\&BUDGET
DEFERRED/ SOCIAL WELFARE
BAILIFF
WCGH
WCGH
ROADS
DPS
ROADS


WCGH
ROADS
SOCIAL INVESTIGATOR
MENTAL HEALTH
ROADS
AIRPORT AUTHORITY
DPS
DPS
AUDITOR CENTRAL RECORDS
ROADS
SEWERAGE
DEFERRED
ROADS
DEFERRED/ TREASURERS
WAYNE COUNTY JAIL
FRIEND OF THE COURT(DEFERRED)
PROBATE COURT JUVENILE
ROADS
CIRCUIT COURT

- To be idle is a short road to death and to be diligent is a way of life; foolish people are idle, wise people are diligent.

Buddha (B.C.E. 568488)

## Obituaries

We, the staff of the Wayne County Employees’ Retirement System express our deepest sympathy to the families of the following deceased individuals

In memory of......

MIZEJEWSKI, ALEX
ZILKA,MAY
BURTON, FRANK
ADAMS, SYLVESTER
MITCHELL, MARY
BERTOCK, BETTY
PRATER, HELEN
MARCHAND, RHEO
MACEK, ELEANOR
RASKIN, ELMER
JORDAN, ARTHUR
LIPMAN, ARTHUR
HAILER, VELMA
SALLIE, LUCINTHIA
CULVER, KATIE
FIEDLER JR, CHARLES
WASHINGTON, RENOLIA*** ANDY
WARD, MABELINE*** CASSIUS
GARRETT, ROSETTA
ZYBURSKI, THOMAS
MORRIS, ALBERT
BARC, BERNICE
KING, GERALD
DUBOSE, JESSE* CAROLYN
GAWRONSKI, HELEN
GLUSZK, MARY
BOIK, STELLA*** FERDINAND
TALLEY, CLARENCE
POLASKI, ANDREW
BRITTAIN, BILLY
GUNDERSON, ALICE* CARL
RAWLS, JOHN
McGRATH, EILEEN* EDWARD
DINGEMAN, HARRY
RICKARD, DOUGLAS

ROADS
ROADS
SHERIFF'S DEPT.
SHERIFF'S DEPT.
ROADS
COMMON PLEAS COURT
DPS


CORPORATION COUNSEL
REGISTER OF DEEDS
36th DISTRICT CT. BAILIFF
SHERIFF'S DEPT.
CIRCUIT COURT( DEFERRED)
FRIEND OF THE COURT(DEFERRED)
REGISTER OF DEEDS
D.J.HEALY HOME

COUNTY CLERK REC. REPRODUCTION
ROADS MAINT.
SOCIAL WALFARE
HEALTH DEPT.
DPS
WCGH
PROBATE COURT
DPS
DEPT. OF ENVIROMENT
TRACT INDEX
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

ROADS
ROADS
WCGH
STATE TRANSFER
REGISTER OF DEEDS
DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICES
CIRCUIT COURT
SHERIFF'S DEPT.

## Obituaries

We, the staff of the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System express our deepest sympathy to the families of the following deceased individuals

MALLETT, MARY
LORENZ, SHIRLEY*** RUSSELL
KAVEN, LAWRENCE
BARNES, THOMAS
REALE, JEROME
SUDEK, WANDA*** RAY
BROOME, WILLIAM
CHARBONNEAU, MURIEL*** FRANK
SMITH, GRACE
BROCKERT, ROY
WISDOM, BLANCHE
ROBERTS, EVERETTE
KIRK, JAMES
PATKE, HELEN* JOHN
LAU, MARGERITE
GOLSON, ROSA*** CLEOPHUS
PARKER, HENRY* THELMA
PEARSON, EDWARD* RAMONA
NORRIS, ARTHUR
KOVACS, OTTO
SHIVEL, WILLIAM
CATALLO, MARIO
MARTTILA, LEVI
LARMEE, MONA
LOVE, LILLIAN*** THURMAN
PHILLIPS, FREDA
ROZEK, JOYCE*** JOHN

MANAGEMENT\&BUDGET
BUREAU OF TAXATION
SHERIFF'S DEPT.
ROADS
ROADS
PROBATE COURT
PROBATE COURT JUVENILE
CORPORATION COUNSEL
CORPORATION COUNSEL
DPS
MANAGEMENT\&BUDGET
ROADS
ROADS
ROADS
WAYNE COUNTY CLERK
WCGH
WCGH
AUDITOR GENERAL
HEALTH/ AIR POLUTION
ROADS
AIRPORT AUTHORITY
ROADS
ROADS
HEALTH DEPT.
ROADS
PROSECUTOR ATTORNEY
PROSECUTOR ATTORNEY

## Change of Beneficiary

Our office recently mailed out change of beneficiary form (s) to ALL eligible participants. This mailing was a proactive step in keeping our files up to date. If you did not receive one, or wish to make changes to recently submitted forms, please contact the Retirement Office @
(313) 224-5572

## New Retirees

| Mcmath | Andrea | 01-Aug-08 | WCS/Jail/New Jail |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Griffin | Sandra | 01-Aug-08 | WCS/Jail/New Jail |
| Clemons | Georgetta | 01-Aug-08 | HHS/Hd/EP/Envir Health |
| Jones | Diana | 01-Aug-08 | WCS/Jail/New Jail |
| Jagiello | Richard | 01-Aug-08 | WCS/Jail/New Jail |
| Cain | Edmond | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Mitsunaga | Shirley | 01-Sep-08 | Cir $\mathrm{Ct} / \mathrm{Juv}$ Sec |
| Helm | Daniel | 01-Sep-08 | DOE/Wastewater Mgmt |
| Patterson | British | 01-Sep-08 | Ret Sys |
| Goodlow | Richard | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Fuller | Anthony | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Hammond | Gregory | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Parks |
| Myers | Joann | 01-Sep-08 | Ret Sys |
| Arsenault | Janice | 01-Sep-08 | HHS/Hd |
| West-Sabin | Bernadette | 01-Sep-08 | HHS/Hd |
| Faryniarz | Thomas | 01-Sep-08 | DOE/Wastewater Mgt |
| Guyton | Richard | 01-Sep-08 | CFS/JDF |
| Johnson | Robert | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Briskey | Richard | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Stramecki | Sabrina | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Cehanowicz | Daniel | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Chisholm | Frances | 01-Sep-08 | HHS/Hd |
| Spearman | Martin | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Bldgs |
| Rattray | Ronald | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |

When a man retires, his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income.

## New Retirees

| Wisniewski | Michael | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dapprich | Daniel | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Satlowski | Leonard | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Sanderson | Mark | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Lapointe | John | 01-Sep-08 | Arpt Authority/Ps |
| Garber | James | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Roby | Kenneth | 01-Sep-08 | HHS/Library |
| Williams | Tyrone | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Coleman | Ruben | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Colburn | Patrick | 01-Sep-08 | Arpt Authority/Mp |
| Wilson | Aaron | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Calven | Gary | 01-Sep-08 | HHS/Hd |
| Hudson | Anthony | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Eng |
| Abess | John | 01-Sep-08 | DPS/Eng |
| Mankin | Charles | 01-Sep-08 | CFS/JDF |
| Kulwicki | Anahid | 01-Oct-08 | HHS/Health \& Human Services |
| Coleman | E. North | 01-Oct-08 | Deferred Retirement Department |
| Majors | Timothy | 01-Oct-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Sklepowich | F | 01-Oct-08 | Pros Att |
| Krystyniak | Joseph | 01-Oct-08 | DPS/Roads |
| Carroll | Elliot | 01-Oct-08 | WCS/Ct Serv |
| Donikian | Michael | 01-Oct-08 | WCS/Ct Serv |
| Williams | Ianthia | 01-Oct-08 | Treas/Unit Ledg |
| Korbal | Peter | 01-Oct-08 | DPS/Roads |

Retirement: World's longest coffee break. ~Author Unknown

## Director's Report (continued from page 1)

We have received a number of calls from retirees concerning the severe downturn in the markets and their pension benefit payments. The Wayne County Employees' Retirement System has experienced the same down turn in the markets as everyone else. This has caused large losses in the portfolio; however we are long term investors and can be patient for the markets to come back. Ninety percent of your portfolio returns come from your asset allocation (what percentage of your investments are domestic stocks, bonds, international stocks, real estate etc.) and only ten percent comes from the actual securities you hold. We feel that the asset allocation we hold is good for the long term and plan to "hold the course" as to our investments. We have a well diversified investment portfolio and although very volatile in this short term market, we are confident that it will provide the needed returns over the long term. Most experts are now saying that it could take until mid 2010 for the markets to come back but no one knows for sure. However, regardless of how your personal investments are faring in this very volatile marketplace, be assured that your pension will continue to be paid and paid at its current levels.

News on the status of the Retiree Supplemental Life Insurance issue.... Judge Prentis Edwards heard the case beginning Monday, November 10, 2008. The trial ran for several days with testimony from all witnesses called. The County requested to keep the hearing open so that they could submit additional documents in support of their defense. The Judge agreed to do so and we are waiting for the final documents to be entered and then the hearing will be closed and the Judge will deliberate and issue his decision. We don't have a definitive timeframe for this process but hopefully it will not be too much longer. It appears that the County is arguing that the Supplemental Life Program is a voluntary life insurance program with the full cost of the insurance to be paid by the retiree and if premiums go up, they must be paid by the retiree. Sub-Chapter 38/AFSCME Council 25 argued that the County has subsidized this program over time and that as a past practice cannot change the premiums charged to the retirees without negotiating with the Union. Once the hearing is closed, the Judge will consider the evidence and issue his ruling. We will keep you abreast of any decision.

The increase in the prescription drug co-pay that was implemented several months ago for employees that retired after December 1, 2002 was also taken up by Sub-Chapter 38 and AFSCME Council 25 the Judge in this case directed the parties to resolve the issue through arbitration. This issue is now slated for the arbitration process and we will keep you informed as the process moves forward.

The Thirteenth Check benefit was included in the November check and was about the same amount as last year's check. We are able to do this because any excess earnings or losses are spread over a 4 year period and not recognized all in the year they are experienced. This is good and bad news. The good news; you received a check this year not significantly less than last year. The bad news, going forward for the next 3 years there will be losses that we carried forward and future checks may be reduced even if we have good earnings. The best news however is that a $13^{\text {th }}$ check will continue to be paid to all eligible retirees.

We are giving away tickets to an upcoming Red Wings Hockey game so if you are interested, send a letter or postcard addressed to the Wayne County Employees' Retirement System, c/o Red Wings Hockey Tickets, 28 W. Adams, Suite 1900, Detroit, MI 48226. Cards and letters received before January 15 will be entered into a drawing and the lucky winner will be on their way to an upcoming game. We will notify the winner in writing and publish the winning name in the next issue of the Messenger.

I received the following humorous article from a retiree who asked that I include it in my article. It was from Joann Murphy, wife of retiree Patrick Murphy.

## Birthdays

Stephanie Ver Meer 73 yrs old

Dec. 23, 2008
(Environmental)

Edna M. Grenier 96 yrs old

Dec. 17, 1919
Retired 1968
(W.C. Health Dept.)


## Ellinora Vinson



| Edna M. Grenier |
| :---: |
| 96 yrs old |
| Dec. 17, 1919 |
| Retired 1968 |
| (W.C. Health Dept.) |

Carole Green
April 24, 1941
Patrick Timothy Murphy 68 yrs old

Dec. 23, 2008 (Roads)
$\qquad$


Bernice Swathell
94 yrs old
D.O.B. Jan. 3, 1915 / Retired 1974
(Wayne County General Hospital)

## Anniversaries

congratulations........
55 Years Joan and Bernie Solo
Nov. 3, 2008
(Airport)
Eatrick and Joann Murphy and growing
December 10, 2002

Nov. 14, 2008
(Roads)

Lawrence and Virginia Walters 50th Wedding Anniversary

Nov. 15, 2008
(W.C. Road Commission 26 years)

# WHEN EVEN THE DEVIL DESERTS YOU 

## Ed Cooper, Consumer-Author

NAMI ADVOCATE September/October 1991
The following essay was read by Laurie Flynn at NAMI's 1991 convention in San Francisco. It was first published in the January/February 1991 issue of "Church \& Society" magazine.

I have a thousand faces, and I am found in all races. Sometimes rich, sometimes poor, sometimes young, sometimes old. I am a person with the disabling pain of a broken brain.

You have names for my pain like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression. Some of you refer to me as crazy or insane. The real fact is most of you don't refer to me at all. You want me locked away out of sight, but my only crime is my shattered mind. Understand why you don't want to look into a darkened soul, because I cry when I am forced to make the journey.

Do you know the hurt I feel when I look into my family's faces and see their fear? Fear of me and what I have become. I try to tell them I will not hurt them and to explain it is not their fault. I try to reach out to each to them to ease their sorrow, but I fail to be a comfort because I cannot hide the agony of my own soul.

I fight the demons of depression and despair. I search for solace for my soul. I want my mind mended, but you must understand that a broken brain is more than mere mechanical failure. It has many causes, I am told. It may be heredity, biological, or environmental. I don't know for sure what causes it, but I know what it causes.

It causes the total destruction of your inner self. It fragments you. It makes you seek an end, even if that means death. You seek the end because you see not only what it has done to you, but also what it is doing to the ones you love. The fear of death fades because to a large degree you already feel dead. You are not able, nor are people willing to interact with you as they once did. In fact, it feels like you have fallen so low even the devil has deserted you.

I ask you, where do you turn when even the devil deserts you? To therapy? It helps, but only touches part of me. To drugs? They help, but only touch part of me. Is there a path to a place that will touch all of me and mend not just my broken brain, but touch the untouchable?

I once heard of such a path. It has been written about, but my mind wanders so much I find it hard to read. It has been spoken of, but I hear so many voices I don't know which to follow. If you know the path, would you please find me? I may be in a hospital. I may be on the streets. I may be at home. Please find me and take me into your arms. Hold me there `til we find the path that leads into the arms of the One not afraid to touch the untouchable. Find my family, too. I may not be able to understand the written word or the words spoken to me. I may not even seem to know where I am, but I will know the warmth I feel when you gently put your arms around me. I will once again know I am loved.

## Director's Report (continued from page 10)

Watch What You Eat
Here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting medical studies:

The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans.
The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans.
The Japanese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans.
The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans.
The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than the Americans.

CONCLUSION: Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you!
I'll use that for my humor for this issue, thanks to Joann. The staff and I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. May your sorrows be few and you happiness abundant in the New Year. All my best to you and yours!

## Wayne County Employees' Retirees Club

The officers and the members of the Wayne County Employees Retirees Club invite Wayne County Retirees, who are not yet members, to join them.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of the month, at 1:30 PM, in the Kay Beard Bldg in Westland, during the months of January, February, March, April and May. June will be a luncheon at a restaurant. No meetings held in July and August. September and October meetings Kay Beard Bldg., November meeting held at a restaurant and the December meeting will be held on the second Thursday in December, December 11th, Kay Beard Bldg., luncheon 1 p.m. (note 1 p.m. instead of 1:30 p.m.)

The Retiree Club is dedicated to improving and protecting benefits for Retirees of Wayne County. If you no longer live in the Wayne County area or cannot attend meetings, the periodic newsletters will keep you informed.

For information regarding membership, send your name and address to:

John Hubert, Membership Chairman<br>Wayne County Employees Retirees Club

## P.O. Box 851237

Westland, MI 48185-6337


WAYNE COUNTY EMPLOYEES,
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
28 WEST ADAMS
SUITE 1900
DETROIT, MI 48226

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

DETROIT, MI


Winter either bites with its teeth or lashes with its tail.

