



RETIREEES' NEWSLETTER

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Retirement/Benefits Office

***For medical, dental, & vision ask for Monica**

***For all other retiree issues ask for Denise**

Countybenefits@stlouisco.com

314-615-5180

**M-F 8:30am-5:00 pm
CDT**

Newsletter submissions,
questions, comments:

% Rosemary Wilson

Retiree & Volunteer Reporter
314-997-3474

wilsonrosemary@me.com

Reviewed by

Susan Daniels

Personnel/HR Director

St. Louis County

One Year Since the COVID-19 Pandemic Began....So What Do Seniors Do Now?

One day, a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing: he would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off! The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up.

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up.

Author Anonymous

Lessons Learned by Retirees During the COVID-19 Pandemic

“What meaningful/useful lesson did you learn during the pandemic the last 12 months?”

“I can’t believe that in the face of overwhelming evidence that the COVID-19 virus can kill you and is currently mutating to more dangerous forms that there are people in this country who refuse to wear face masks and/or believe the seriousness of this pandemic.”

Langston Chambers (Family Court)

“We have learned to do our grocery shopping just once a week instead of 2-3 times/week.”

Levena Edwards (Health)

“I am totally amazed at many people in Jefferson County not wearing face masks. My wife and I went to a restaurant sometime ago wearing masks but the servers and other patrons were not. Both my wife and I came down with COVID-19 shortly after that restaurant visit.”

James Hagan (Parks)

“I learned to cherish, so much more, the time we spend with our friends and loved-ones, as well as the events to be attended without cancellation and, not to mention, hugs and even handshakes.”

Jerry Hawkins (Police)

“I learned to continue reaching out to family, friends and strangers with AOK (Acts of Kindness). You can say “Hello”, send a card, smile with your eyes while masked, nod your head, wave, be creative because it all helps. You never know what you can do until you do it.”

Sandra Leaks (Parks)

“We have learned to stay at home, wear masks, and do the other pandemic safety measures—and hope for the best. We are doing fine and have had both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Andy Minardi (Law Department)

“After recovering from COVID-19 in April, I have realized how fortunate I am. Although it was not pleasant, my experience was much less severe than many others. I have learned to value my relationships and life itself. Special thanks to my wife Mary who cared for me during my recovery.”

Monty Monteleone (Police)

“Never take anything for granted—life, health, family, loved ones, friends...and hugs.”

Judy Sampson (Police)

“I finally have time in my life to enjoy hobbies such as sewing and writing—time to do things I never had time for before.”

Marilyn Seals (Law Library)

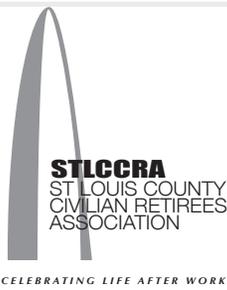
“I have learned to limit my trips to the grocery store to once a week.”

Priscilla Stiles (Public Works)

“I have learned the importance of family and how important it is to keep in communication with them. I have a new great grandson and I can’t wait to meet him!”

Mary Ann Tyra (Health)

(more on Page 4)



(A non-profit organization incorporated 1/30/2006 Charter #N00713612)

MISSION: "To promote the well being, enhance the quality of life & encourage the full potential of St. Louis County retirees by promoting socialization while supplying helpful information on issues & matters important to civilian retirees"

2021 DUES

2020 Members

will pay **no** 2021 dues.

New members 2021 will pay \$12. See below for Treasurer contact info.

NO MEETINGS OR EVENTS SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME
(Not forever. Just for now.)

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

www.STLCCRA.com

**2020 Members—No additional dues for 2021.*

New Member dues \$12/year

c/o Delores Clayton, Treas. PH 314-385-3324
E mail: deelo65@sbcglobal.net

Association Information:
c/o President, Marian McCreary

Telephone: 314-291-1867

Email: mmccre8814@aol.com

Website: www.STLCCRA.com

COLA UPDATE

A COLA=Cost of Living Adjustment was last given St. Louis County retirees in 2005. In the interim retirees have been wondering and asking about when will St. Louis County fund another COLA.

At the January, 2021 Retirement Fund Board meeting the Board consultant announced that the Retirement Plan had reached 80% funding ratio with \$856,000,000 in assets. The President of the St. Louis County Civilian Retirees Association then requested that the Board approve a proposal to recommend a COLA for retirees to the St. Louis County Executive.

At the Retirement Board meeting February 25, 2021, the Chairman of the Retirement Fund Board indicated that he would like to wait until the June, 2021 meeting to review the annual actuarial study before taking a vote on the COLA recommendation. He also said in the interim he would like appropriate senior St. Louis County staff to determine several COLA options and advise their best judgment. Issues to be discussed include whether funds to pay for the COLA would come from the County's annual budgeted General Revenue Fund or from monies in the Retirement Fund and whether funds are available.

Other Board members' comments:

. A June 2021 review would allow sufficient time for a COLA to be included in the 2022 annual St. Louis County budget process.

.It is the Retirement Fund Board's responsibility to recommend COLAs not the County's.

.A COLA is timely and appropriate.

Any Retirement Fund Board decision to make a COLA recommendation would go to the St. Louis County Executive. If the St. Louis County Executive approves this recommendation, he would send the COLA recommendation to the St. Louis County Council for final approval.

More to come.....



MISSION:

"We stand as an advocate and protector of rights of the retired Police Officers and Civilian employees of the St. Louis County Police Department.

"We shall maintain communications with St. Louis County Government and the Police Department to insure retired employees receive all benefits earned during their career protecting the citizens of St. Louis County.

"We support, recognize, and honor all who chose law enforcement with St. Louis County Police Department."

PICNIC

Subject to Pandemic Cancellation

Sunday, May 23, 2021 Noon-?
Brookdale Farms
7999 Twin River Road, 63025
Members & 1 Guest-No Charge
Children-No Charge
Additional Guest \$10 each
RSVP by May 16, 2021
Jerry 314-422-7117

skyhawk591@charter.net

Membership dues \$15/year

c/o Deborah Arington, Treas.
Phone: 314-423-9978

E mail: deboraharington1953@gmail.com

Association Information:

c/o President, Monty Monteleone
E mail: mrm194917@gmail.com
c/o Secretary, Jerry Hawkins

E mail: skyhawk591@charter.net

Lessons Learned by Retirees During the COVID-19 Pandemic

“What meaningful/useful lesson did you learn during the pandemic the last 12 months?”

“To listen to the science, wear my mask, socially distance myself, avoid large crowds, not going to restaurants or other establishments where there would be people other than my family. So far, so good, but we are not out of the woods as yet. It is scary.”

Janet Beasley (Transportation)

“I learned how to stay home. It was a very hard lesson for me.”

Mary Blunt (Revenue)

“I learned that my family is very important and a lot of fun to be with.”

Peggy Cross (Transportation)

“Don’t take family and friends for granted.”

Lori Fiegel (Planning)

“It’s been a new way for all of us.”

Joe Heenan (Transportation)

“Being patient through out this pandemic, Finding things to keep active too/“

Joan Koester (Transportation)

“I guess I’ve learned that although I don’t like staying home so much, I can survive this way for longer than I thought. Noticed that I’ve put less than 2000 miles on my car in the past year. I also rely on Zoom a lot to communicate with family and friends. I shudder to think how we would have survived if this happened 30 years ago before so much technology was available to help workers work from home.”

Marian McCreary (Admin)

“What I found to be important during these trying times is getting my exercise in. I’m the person who went to the YMCA several days a week. I started working out with YouTube and Facebook exercise videos. Not only did I keep my weight down but I also got a figure for an old lady.”

Maria Parram (Police-Civilian)

“I lost a brother and a daughter-in-law from the effects of the virus. In addition, two of my granddaughters, both teachers, were quarantined for fourteen days because students in their classes were diagnosed with the virus. If the vaccine had been given to those who were in the higher category 1 a/b, why did some special persons receive vaccines who clearly were not in 1 a/b ?. Mistakes in distribution or Lies ?”

Denny Robertson (Police)

“I learned to plan my meals for seven days in advance so as to only have to go to the grocery store just one time per week.”

Rosemary Wilson (Health)

(more on Page 2)

Recent Retirees

December, 2020

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Barnes, Michael | Transportation | 33 years 4 months |
| Chamberlain, Terry | Parks | 42 years 2 months |
| Dowd, Brian | Family Court | 32 years 8 months |
| Landolt, Margaret | Prosecuting Attorney | 8 years 3 months |
| Larose, Michael | Assessor's Office | 36 years 2 months |
| Leyco, Laurito | Justice Services | 27 years 6 months |
| McGuire, Patt | Family Court | 17 years 2 months |
| McKee, Michael | Parks | 28 years 8 months |
| Rodriguez, John | Transportation | 18 years 1 month |
| Schreimann, Charles | IT | 6 years |
| Twombly, Laurie | Transportation | 38 years 7 months |
| Woods, James | Public Works | 13 years 9 months |
| Youngblood, Louis | Health | 9 years 10 months |

January, 2021

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Banahan, Richard | Parks | 3 years 7 months |
| Bartman, Laurence | Transportation | 18 years 5 months |
| Buadu, Sheila | Police | 7 years |
| Gunn, Priscilla | County Counselor's Office | 6 years 6 months |
| Harris, Timothy | Police | 22 years 1 month |
| Hawkins, Gregory | Justice Services | 22 years 6 months |
| Hayes, Patrick | Police | 27 years 9 months |
| Jordan, William | Transportation | 46 years |
| King Xerxes | Administration | 26 years 11 months |
| Lemp, Sharon | Health | 10 years 11 months |
| Mallory-Tate, Patricia | Health | 21 years 2 months |
| McCourt, Norman | County Council | 14 years 2 months |
| Murphy, Julia | Justice Services | 31 years 5 months |
| Narrow, Sandra | Police | 40 years 8 months |
| Overton, Jacqueline | Justice Services | 27 years 3 months |
| Palecek, Christine | County Council | 43 years |
| Rogers, Jane | Police | 29 years 6 months |
| Woods, Maxine | Courts | 11 years 1 month |
| Zinkgraf, Jeannette | Administration | 30 years 1 month |

February, 2021

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Bland, Trina | Health | 18 years 1 month |
| Crider, Charles | Transportation | 20 years 9 months |
| Crossland, Danny | Spirit Airport | 32 years |
| Earl, Steve | Parks | 32 years 3 months |
| Forde, Barbara | Health | 33 years 11 months |
| Hayden, Warren | Human Services | 7 years 2 months |
| Henke, Edward | Transportation | 27 years 3 months |
| Johnson, Peter | Police | 13 years 1 month |
| Kannady, Ronald | Family Court | 29 years 8 months |
| Lanham, Craig | Police | 13 years 4 months |
| Lowe, Roscoe | Justice Services | 20 years 9 months |
| Marty, Christina | Prosecuting Attorney | 14 years 6 months |
| Matheny, Ronald | Family Court | 30 years 7 months |
| Menning, Kent | Police | 22 years 7 months |
| Neff, Edward | Police | 23 years 8 months |
| Peeler, Mark | Police | 17 years 1 month |
| Reason, Made | Justice Services | 27 years 5 months |
| Threadgill, Dorothy | Health | 42 years 8 months |
| Warmbrodt, Donald | Justice Services | 30 years 3 months |
| Wesley, Jeffery | Administration | 30 years |

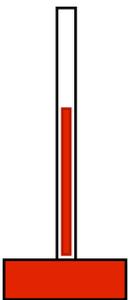
INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STL COUNTY RETIREMENT & BENEFITS OFFICE

Deceased Retirees

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Leahy, Gary | 12/20/2020 |
| Stoverink, Robert | 12/03/2020 |
| Wilhelm, Walter | 12/03/2020 |
| Williams, Gilbert | 12/03/2020 |
| Doyle, Patrick | 12/06/2020 |
| Sanderson, Patricia | 12/07/2020 |
| Atwell, Thomas | 12/09/2020 |
| Beck, Mary | 12/09/2020 |
| Beehler, Patricia | 12/21/2020 |
| Reynolds, Patricia | 12/21/2020 |
| Mehs, Gary | 12/23/2020 |
| Pierce, Willa | 12/26/2020 |
| Decker, Robert | 12/30/2020 |
| Fritzel, Robert | 01/02/2021 |
| Meyer, Alice | 01/02/2021 |
| Kennedy, Rosella | 01/06/2021 |
| Berberich, William | 01/14/2021 |
| Mullersman, Donald | 01/17/2021 |

Information submitted by St. Louis County Retirement & Benefits Office: Some departments are not listed because current payroll system (CAPS) didn't import all the information from the prior system during the conversion.

COLA BAROMETER (COLA=Cost of Living Adjustment)



>St. Louis County Retirement Fund Balance on:
1/31/2021=**\$855,234,434**
>Funded Ratio on 12/31//2020=**79.8%**

NOTE: RSMo Section 105.684.1 specifies that a Missouri public employee retirement plan must have a minimum funded ratio of 80% to grant COLA with funded ratio not less than 75% in the plan after implementation of the COLA.

NOTE: St Louis County is a Charter County and as such has option to NOT follow the letter of this law in the matter of a COLA with its retirement plan.

FYI

Please be aware that currently the Retirement and Benefits Office is short staffed.

We appreciate your patience while we sort through calls, requests, and updates. It might take us a few days to return calls but please know we are working diligently to get back to you as soon as possible. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause.

Monica Crabtree, Benefits Manager
Denise Derr, Retirement Specialist

FYI

AARP Resources to Stay Healthy and Connected During the Coronavirus Pandemic

<https://connect2affect.org>

ORIGAMI—Paper Folding
Paper at art supply or craft stores
<https://www.origamiway.com/paper-folding-crafts-step-by-step.shtml>



Graphics: freedigitalphotos.net

Fiscal data furnished by STL County Retirement & Benefits Office

