



# ACREA News

Celebrating 48 Years of Service Since 1973

## Retirement Fund Update

From Rich Alt, Trustee and  
Carl Newby, Alternate Trustee

We are happy to inform you that the Retirement Fund is doing very well! Depending on the accounting standard used to determine the unfunded liability, your fund is between 107% - 117% funded.

That puts your trust fund in the **top percentile of all public funds** in the country.

With the retirement of Mr. **Danny Zito**, the Retirement Board has hired Ms. **Susie Ardeshir**, as Executive Director/Chief Investment Officer. Ms. Ardeshir has extensive public fund and investment strategy experience and she has hit the ground running. The Retirement Board wishes Danny much happiness in the next chapter of his life.

While the Fund is very healthy financially, as Trustees, we are -- as a group -- embarking on a review of the Fund's governance. This is common practice when a new administrator is hired. We'll be reviewing best practices within the public fund universe, including a review of cyber security protocols with our custodial bank.

As we enter the fourth quarter of the year, and the holiday season, we wish you the best! ❖

## ACREA Luncheons in 2022

In light of continuing COVID concerns, your Board determined that the ACREA luncheon usually held each October should be cancelled. We look forward to announcing a **Spring luncheon** after the Board meets in January 2022. Watch our Facebook page and website for announcements. ❖

## Big Changes to Retiree Health Care and Prescription Coverage

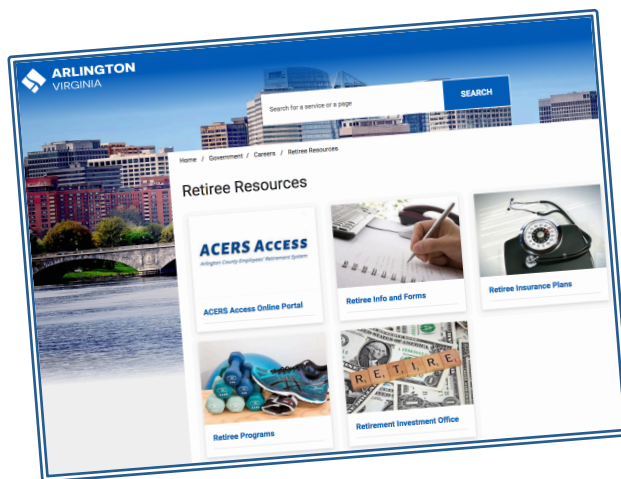
The County recently completed its procurement process for medical and prescription drug coverage for Medicare-enrolled retirees and their Medicare-enrolled dependents. A new, custom UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage plan for coverage was selected to replace AmWINS and **coverage will begin January 1, 2022.**

Retirees have received detailed information about the plan, as well as forms for those who wish to opt-out. All current AmWINS members will be automatically enrolled in the new plan and ID cards will arrive in early December.

If you have not received correspondence from Arlington County and the Retiree Newsletter, Fall 2021, please get in touch with the County's Human Resources Department, Employee Services Division, at (703) 228-3500, x1.

Did you know that the County has a **new retiree webpage**? We are no longer on the jobs pages. Check it out:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Careers/Retiree-Resources> ❖



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### 2021 Board of Directors

- **Carl Newby**, Acting Chair and Retiree Retirement Board Representative Alternate
- **Laura Chalkley**, Secretary
- **Mary Stephenson**, Treasurer
- **Jane Eboch**, Newsletter Editor
- **Melodee Melin**, Membership
- **Gregory Kurasz**, Luncheon Coordinator
- **Judy Robinson**, General Member
- **Nancy Hart**, Employee Council Liaison
- **Richard Alt**, Retiree Retirement Board Representative

ACREA announcements, newsletters, and forms are available on our website and our FaceBook page – look for “Arlington County Retired Employees Association.”

\*\*If you have a computer and received a hard copy of this newsletter, please consider letting ACREA communicate with you by email. You will help us save postage.\*\*

### New ACREA Members

#### Melodee Melin, Membership Chair

Despite the pandemic pause in ACREA luncheon meetings, we are pleased to welcome several new members including: **Lisa Grandle** (PRCR), **Richard Rodriguez** (Police), **Margo Watters** (PRCR), and **Marie Ciccolella** (Sheriff's Office). We look forward to giving our new members a proper welcome and a free lunch when we get together in the Spring.

The interruption in our meetings caused by COVID precautions has made it more difficult for us to know who is retiring and to let them know about ACREA. We encourage current members to reach out to former co-workers and bring them along to our next luncheon. You can help by sharing this newsletter with any who

may not be receiving our communications or by directing them to the ACREA website. ❖

## County News

### Arlington County Board Chooses a New Logo

The County Board voted on the new logo Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021 — after more than 400 design submissions & 29,000 votes in two rounds of community feedback.

The chosen design represents Arlington's close relationship with DC and Alexandria and echoes how the County was formed, as well as its Potomac River border on the east.



The new logo will replace the previous logo and the County seal.

### Arlington ECC Leads Nation in Remote Work

Arlington County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is one of the first centers in the nation to implement capabilities that allow fire and emergency medical services (EMS) dispatchers and supervisors to deliver critical emergency communications services no matter where they are.

Arlington Fire-EMS dispatchers and supervisors are able work from a remote location, including from home. New capabilities in the 9-1-1 system allow for remote call-taking, dispatch, and supervision — breaking new ground in decentralizing and distributing public safety emergency communications.

### American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Benefits Arlington

In March 2021, President Biden signed ARPA legislation, which provides states and localities with funds to support the ongoing public health response and help communities recover. Arlington is receiving \$46 million in two equal

allotments. The first allotment was received in May 2021 and the second one will come in May 2022. Arlington’s allocation will focus on recovery and equity, including small business grants, housing assistance, workforce development, crisis intervention services, and transit services.

### Tour of High View Park

ACREA members have found COVID-safe activities to enjoy this Fall. Several members including **Marcia Smith, Dottie Duke, and Melodee Melin,** participated in the History Walking Tour of the Halls Hill-High View Park neighborhood, which was sponsored by the Langston Boulevard Alliance and the John M. Langston Citizens Association.

The Halls Hill community, which began in 1866, was settled by freed slaves and other free black people, and is located on Langston Blvd. (formerly Lee Highway), Culpeper and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets, and

George Mason Drive. Six important sites were highlighted in the tour and presentations: the Welcoming Area at North Cameron Street; Fire Station Number 8; Langston Elementary (which now houses the Langston-Brown Community Center); the Calloway Methodist Church and Mount Salvation Baptist, and the Segregation Wall.

The event is one of a number commemorating the Lee Highway name change and promoting understanding of the past and future of this important County corridor. A major planning process is underway for the entire length of the boulevard. ❖

### Want County News?

Read the latest news on the County’s online Newsroom, and sign up for a variety of informative updates.

[www.newsroom.arlingtonva.us](http://www.newsroom.arlingtonva.us).

## In Memoriam

*Remembering ACREA members who died this year (listed with hometown and date of death)*



Name	Hometown	Department	Date of Death
Ann D. Smith	Falls Church, VA	Public Works	Dec. 23, 2020
David Best	Fairfax, VA	Fire	May 19, 2021
Walter Blienki	Chantilly, VA	Police	June 27, 2021
Salvatore Tammaro	Preston, MD	Fire	Jan. 18, 2021
Stephen A. Heitzler	Falmouth, VA	Fire	Feb. 4, 2021



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*Inside this issue:*

- Major changes to Retiree health care
- New County logo
- Arlington's ECC leads the nation