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***"Don't forget Where You Put
Your para-phernalia."***



A Message From Your President

I would like to start by saying it is my honor and privilege to serve as your President of PARA. I will do my best to make PARA's future visions a reality.

Looking back on the PA's Centennial Year highlights, we had great newsletter coverage, with highlights from the enormous number of stories submitted by retirees. These now form a new archive on PARA's website, preserving the voices of some of retirees who helped make the 100 years happen. A newly published book about the agency's accomplishments is now available (Ordering information on Page 4).

Retirees played a part along with current agency leadership and staff in the events in honor of the 20th Anniversary of September 11, such as the Pillars of the PA, Remembrance through Renewal, Roses Ceremony, Community Day at the Museum, the Interfaith Service on the plaza, dedication of the Memorial Garden to first responders, and the October 5th Candlelight Walk. See photo highlights throughout this issue.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank Dave Gallagher for his ten years as President of PARA. We are all pleased that he is still staying on the Board with us.

Looking ahead, the Board of Directors will be working on various projects, both large and small, which will be helpful to PARA. As the new President of PARA, I look forward to working with everyone. I am hoping that we can get new (and older) retirees to join us. We will step up our efforts to increase PARA's membership, which currently includes less than half of the agency's living retirees.

We also will build on recent progress in strengthening our relationship with the agency's Human Resources staff both to advocate for retirees' concerns and to provide you with valuable information about benefits and related issues. See this issue's new "For Your Benefit" column, a joint effort of PARA and HR staff.

I'm looking ahead to what we hope will be a more promising prospect for life after the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a new era. There are many changes that occurred and many more to come. It's a time for hope, peace, and serenity. Sending wishes for a healthy and happy Thanksgiving and winter holidays.

Karen Eastman, President

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Al Rubbert (1994-2003)

Richard Helman (2004-2011)

Dave Gallagher (2012-2021)

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Rae Ann Hoffmann, Vice President

Maria Malone-Hodges, Vice President

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Jerrilyn Raczynski, Secretary

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Steve Borrelli

Elizabeth DeLaura

Frank DiMola

Rita DuBrow

John Fitzpatrick

Dave Gallagher

Al Graser

Cynthia Hadley-Bailey

Rich Hellenbrecht

Arnold Karvasarsky

Richard Lee

Dennis Lombardi

Frank Lombardi

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Time to Send Your 2022 Dues and Current Contact Information

PARA dues (a very reasonable \$10 per year, but feel free to send more) are collected throughout the year on a calendar year basis. This newsletter mailing includes a dues remittance form, but many people seem to forget to write a check and send it to us. Please be mindful of this and take the time to send the check to us. Also, we ask that you include your current email and mailing address. If you're unsure if you've paid your dues, just go to the PARA website (<https://paranynj.org/Dues/index.htm>) and click on the link at the bottom of the page. This will generate an e-mail to PARA's Treasurer requesting your dues status. We thank you for your continued support of PARA.



Executive Director Rick Cotton and Chairman Kevin O'Toole led the 20th Anniversary commemoration on September 11th at an Interfaith Service on the WTC Plaza.

Photo Courtesy PANYNJ

PANYNJ Centennial Notes

As the Port Authority's 100th Anniversary project winds down toward year-end, PARA members should keep an eye on the agency website's Centennial section — <https://www.panynj.gov/port-authority/en/Centennial.html> — for additional postings. The agency's archives rebuilding initiative is continuing beyond this year. Members who want to donate relevant objects or copies of photos or documents should contact Alfred P. Doblin, Director of Strategic Communications by email: adoblin@panynj.gov.

Board Highlights

Both the April 19, 2021 and the July 13, 2021 Quarterly Meetings of the Board of Directors were held via Zoom technology due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Highlights of the April meeting are as follows: Director Isaacs reported slow dues collection in the first quarter. For the first time PARA expenses surpassed its quarterly income as a result of the annual honorarium for our webmaster. Otherwise, there were no significant expenditures. Overall finances are in good shape. He did notice an inconsistency in dues payment in general and a discussion followed and suggestions were offered as to how to reach and/or restrict non-dues paying members from certain publications.

Director Venech reported that he solicited Board members and retirees to submit stories about their careers and experiences for the Spring newsletter and got about 85 responses, many very heartwarming. Since there was too much content to include all the submittals in the newsletter due to the prohibitive cost, it was decided to compile an archive with the full content of everyone's responses on the PARA website, which could be expanded as more stories are received.

In a continuing effort to recruit new members, Director Malone-Hodges reported that she is trying to get information on any upcoming pre-retirement seminars and information on the group of people that may be retiring in the near future. She continues to work with HR on this. Directors Malone-Hodges and Hadley-Bailey will work on getting non-police and police members signed up and dues paid.

Director Blauser led the effort to turn over the Presidency of PARA. As you now may be aware, Karen Eastman has graciously accepted the role of President. Director Blauser thanked Dave for his much-appreciated role and all his hard work over the years. President Gallagher in turn expressed thanks to the Board and happiness for the outcome. Director DiMola suggested PARA take part in the 20th anniversary of 9/11 and that it would be most appropriate for retirees with firsthand experiences to have a presence at the podium for whatever may be planned. Director Malone-Hodges suggested that PARA continue to work on the Pillars of the Port Authority awards committee as well. Director Philmus suggested a delegation of PARA members attend the ceremony.

Director DuBrow has established a new Benefits Committee which was subsequently approved by the Board, to address our members' concerns regarding PA benefits. Director DuBrow will be the point person and liaison with HR. Retirees with benefit issues are always advised to contact HR directly for assistance. The Committee members are Directors DuBrow, Gallagher, Eastman, Hoffmann, Hellenbrecht, Malone-Hodges, and Joe SanSevero as an adjunct member. She also reported that HR is looking into installing a benefits portal for information dissemination. Director DeLaura reported that many of the retiree luncheon groups are beginning to plan in-person luncheons again.

At the July meeting Treasurer Isaacs summarized the voting process. The election results were accepted which approved Director Eastman as President, and the following Directors for 3-year terms: DeLaura, DiMola, DuBrow, Graser, Hadley-Bailey, Hellenbrecht, Lee and Tucker. Also, the following Board officers were re-elected for a term of one year or until superseded: Vice-President Hoffmann, Secretary Raczynski, Treasurer Isaacs and Assistant Treasurer Cutler. At that point the meeting was turned over to Karen Eastman, the incoming President. Committee reports were given. June was a good dues collection month in spite of the high cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. The audit for the 2019-2020 period was completed this year by Bob Sudman, former Port Authority Audit Director. PARA thanks Bob for his participation and hopes that he will continue to perform this function in the future. Director Venech mentioned that there now is a special section on the PARA website where all the retiree centennial stories were posted, with thanks to webmaster Joe Sansevero. Port Authority staff helped out by providing photos to go along with some of the stories. Director Hoffmann reported that the new website production is ongoing. The web designer, Go-Daddy, has improved the design which is now between 80 percent and 90 percent complete. We may have to change the input call-in contractor because Go-Daddy is lagging on this particular task.

PA Benefits has notified PARA that in the future they will not be sending out reminders to file for Medicare Part B reimbursement benefits. It will be the retirees' responsibility.

Continued on page 4

Board Highlights - continued from page 3

PARA will continue to remind its members, however, there are eligible people who are not PARA members who may never get notification. Per HR, there are no pre-retirement seminars scheduled at this time. We will be notified when they resume. Directors Malone-Hodges and Hadley-Bailey continue the recruitment effort.

Acting in consultation with the Executive Committee, on September 2 Secretary Raczynski circulated the following proposal for Board consideration: "PARA is entering a period whereby its membership is showing a decline and there is a need to reach out to prospective retirees and encourage membership. In addition, PARA's participation in certain Port Authority events and its continuing liaison with staff is a critical component to the success of its mission. Therefore, it is recommended that we fill the position of Second Vice-President with Maria Malone-

Hodges. Maria has the necessary skills, maintains the necessary relationships with Port Authority staff, and is currently performing these important responsibilities on behalf of the Board.

Therefore, in accordance with Article V, Section 1, of the By-laws of the Port Authority Retirees Association, a recommendation is hereby made to appoint Maria Malone-Hodges to the position of Vice-President, effective immediately and until such time as the re-election of the PARA Board Officers is held."

This recommendation was approved via email balloting of the Board. Subsequently, VP Malone-Hodges reported that Cynthia Hadley-Bailey has agreed to succeed her as Chair of the PARA Membership Committee.

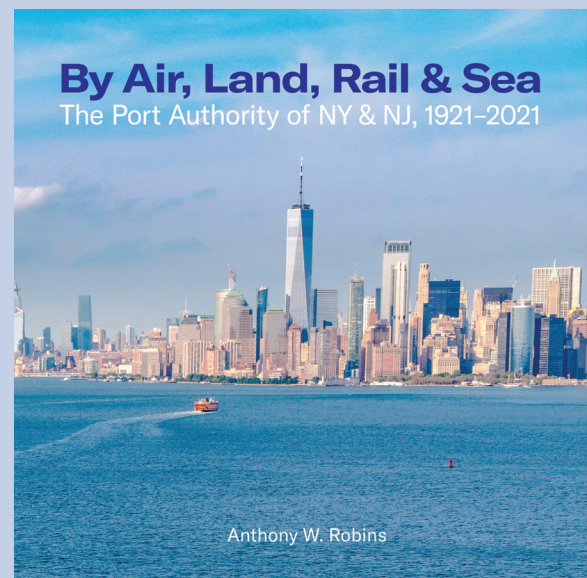
Centennial Commemorative Items Available Now

Port Authority retirees now can order two lasting keepsakes of the agency's Centennial year: a specially struck commemorative coin, and a new book recording the Port Authority's history and vision for future investments to serve the bi-state region, both illustrated here.

By Air, Land, Rail & Sea: The Port Authority of NY & NJ, 1921-2021 was published in collaboration with renowned author Anthony W. Robins to honor our shared history and accomplishments. This 200-page coffee-table book details the achievements of the Port Authority's first century and previews the upcoming ventures that will carry that legacy into its second century.

The commemorative coin features the Centennial logo on the front and the seal of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on the back.

The book costs \$75.00 and the coin costs \$4.40, plus shipping. The link to order the book and/or the coin is panynj.myshopify.com and the password to access the page is PANYNJ. Please order soon. Quantities are limited.



Remembrance, Renewal, Resilience

I still remember clearly the last time I sat in my engineering office on the 72nd floor of the Trade Center. It was a Friday afternoon just days before the sad events of 9/11. Having just finished reviewing and signing hundreds of contract drawings for the replacement and modernization of the Holland Tunnel's original ventilation system (the first of its kind when the tunnel opened in 1927), I was looking forward to a two-week vacation with my wife on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Little did I know then that I would be returning a week later to mourn the loss of so many of our friends and colleagues and find myself being part of the emergency response and recovery team at what was once the World Trade Center.

It was there, while on the pile as we called it, one day in late September, that the smoke and acrid smell in the air, brought me back to another Friday afternoon, eight years earlier. It was the memory of those hours trapped in a dark, smoke-filled elevator after a terrorist bomb exploded in the basement of our building. There were nine of us in that small elevator that day, including then Chief Engineer, Gene Fasullo and future Chief Engineer, Frank Lombardi. After cutting our way out of the elevator shaft, we groped our way down pitch black, smoky stairways to daylight and safety, a similar experience shared by thousands and thousands of others evacuating that day.

In a show of resilience, agency staff banded together and had the World Trade Center fully back up and running in just three weeks. Then, learning from that slow evacuation experience, went on to implement safety improvements that would prove

prescient. Among these improvements were the placement of battery-powered floodlights in all the stairwells of the Trade Center, as well as luminescent strips on the stairs and handrails. Because of the loss of power that day and the ensuing darkness in the stairwells, it was several hours before everyone was able to make their way down and out of the buildings. Importantly, agency staff also developed emergency evacuation procedures and ran drills periodically for everyone in the buildings.

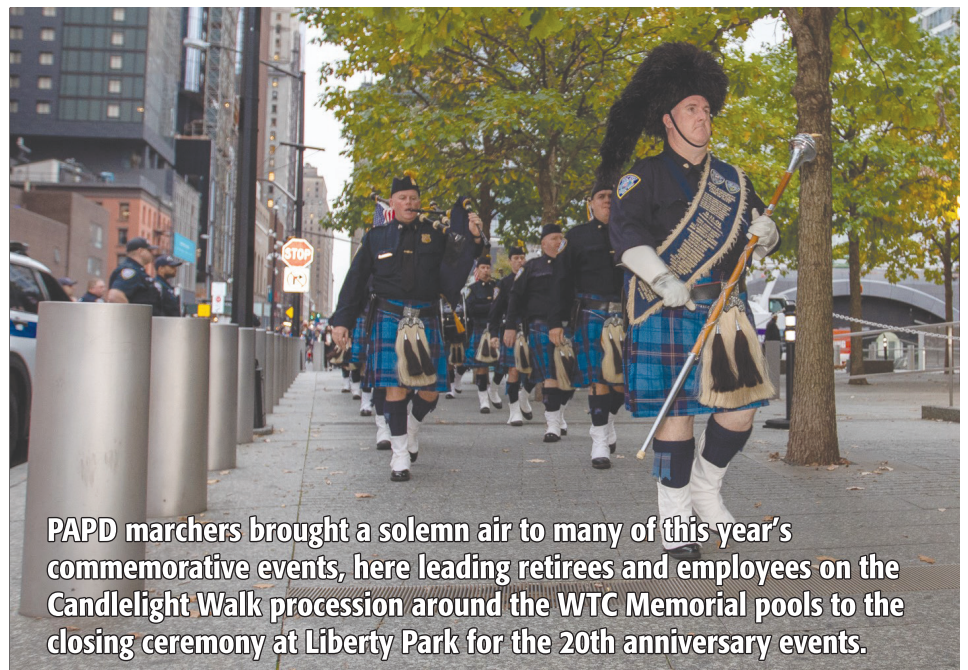
Today, we remember all those lost on that terrible day 20 years ago, and rightfully so. But we should also remember that thousands and thousands of others made it out safely that day. I am convinced that the toll

could have been much worse had it not been for those lessons learned and improvements that were made in the aftermath of the 1993 Bombing.

Peter Rinaldi




Retiree Peter Rinaldi shares recollections at October 5 Candlelight Remembrance Walk and Reflection Ceremony in Liberty Park.



PAPD marchers brought a solemn air to many of this year's commemorative events, here leading retirees and employees on the Candlelight Walk procession around the WTC Memorial pools to the closing ceremony at Liberty Park for the 20th anniversary events.

Photo Courtesy PANYNJ

FOR YOUR BENEFIT



In an effort to keep our PARA members updated on benefit issues and provide important reminders, PARA-phernalia has added “For Your Benefit” as a new feature in our Spring and Fall newsletters. As always, important issues are added to the PARA website (www.paranyj.org) and if needed, e-bulletins are sent to PARA members who have enrolled for these notifications. To enroll, PARA members can go to the website and sign up for e-bulletins.

PARA would like to thank the Total Rewards - Benefits Division of the Port Authority HR Department for the following article and other information provided to PARA regarding important reminders and updates for Port Authority/PATH retirees.

Updates from Human Resources - Employee Benefits

In an effort to better serve our customers, the Human Resources Department has made a few changes as it pertains to Employee Benefits. We believe these changes will support our mission of providing an outstanding customer experience, while we continue to make it a point to gain a better understanding of our employee's/retiree's requests.

Moving forward, we ask that all inquiries related to Benefits be sent to hr_employeebenefits@panynj.gov – this dedicated mailbox will help us streamline our business processes and connect you with a Benefits Subject Matter Expert to get you a response more efficiently. Effective immediately, you can begin using this email address to send your benefits inquiries, including but not limited to:

- Medical, Dental & Life Insurance eligibility and coverage level inquiries
- Submitting PA 2298 Employee Status Change form with the relevant documentation
- Obtaining forms related to life insurance, medical and dental claim forms
- Medicare
- Change of Address request

To monitor inquiries and ensure we are meeting the needs of our customers, we will continue using the Customer Relationship Management (CXm) system, which provides the team with a significant tool used to implement best practice methods to track and reference calls from employees/retirees. This creates a single reference database for call management and case resolution – allowing us to work more efficiently to handle inquiries.

One of the most frequent questions we get from retirees is around Medicare. With that, here are some important things to remember about Medicare:

- Medicare is a federal health insurance program for eligible U.S. citizens and legal residents. It is funded in part by taxes you pay while working. Medicare is not a family health plan. It is not Social Security, Medicaid or free.
- Medicare benefits become effective the first of the month in which the retiree and/or spouse turn age 65 or becomes eligible for Medicare (Under 65, have a disability and are receiving disability benefits from Social Security or certain disability benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board for 24 months).
- At the time of Medicare eligibility, the retiree or spouse must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B to ensure full continuation under the Port Authority/PATH retiree health plan. A copy of your Medicare card with your Medicare Health Identification Claim (HIC) Number must be provided to Employee Benefits. It is also the responsibility of the Medicare recipient under age 65 to notify Employee Benefits of the date of their Medicare eligibility and to provide a copy of their Medicare card with the Health Identification Claim (HIC) Number.
- We will then send the information to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid and once approved, we will move your Prescription Plan from the active plan to a comparable Medicare Part D plan. This will ensure continuation of your Prescription Plan, through Express Scripts, without you having to get a Part D plan elsewhere.
- You need to enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B as soon as you become eligible. If you wait, you may be assessed penalties by the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for late enrollment.
- Look out for new cards from United Healthcare (it will say “Indemnity” in the right-hand corner) and Express Scripts (it will have the new group “JMP”) that are exclusive to you.
- If applicable, your National Vision Administrators plan, MetLife Dental or Dentcare will remain the same.

If you are looking for more information on Medicare like how claims are processed when Medicare is primary or what happens to the dependents on your plan when you enroll in Medicare, feel free to send an email to hr_employeebenefits@panynj.gov and we'll be happy to talk with you about it.

Don't forget! If you are planning or recently moved, please make sure you notify HR by submitting a completed Change of Address form. Additionally, you must notify the pension system (NYSLRS and/or RRB) about your change of address separately.

Continued on page 7

What's to come! In line with our efforts to provide information in an easy to access way, we are in the process of creating an online "Retiree Portal" which will be a one stop site for retirees to find an array of information on Medical Benefits, Life Insurance, Medicare and much more. Stay Tuned...we'll be asking for your email address real soon, so that we can get you access to these resources.

The Human Resources Department is committed to our customer's experience. Our goal is to provide easy to access resources and tools for our active employees, retirees, and external customers. We look forward to continuing to support you!

Editor's note: For those retirees working elsewhere after age 65 and covered under another employer plan, please contact Social Security, Port Authority Employee Benefits and the active plan administrator for details on requirements for enrollment in Medicare and coordination of claim submissions.

New Contact email for Human Resources Employee Benefits **hr_employeebenefits@panynj.gov**

As noted in the above article, Employee Benefits has provided us with a new email address for use by employees and retirees. The new email address is hr_employeebenefits@panynj.gov and is the preferred method for contacting Employee Benefits. The telephone number remains the same and it is 212-435-2870. If a retiree requests a status or address change form, Employee Benefits will either email or mail the form to your home. Forms may also be found on the PARA website. To return forms by email, you can either attach the completed form to the email or you can take a picture of the completed form (including a signature) using a cell phone and forward that image to Employee Benefits at the new email address. Other benefit questions or issues can be sent to the new email address as well. For questions that pertain to Payroll such as W-2 forms and tax related issues, retirees can contact the Payroll Department at 201-395-3173.

CVS and United Healthcare

Planning to get a vaccine at a CVS Pharmacy? What you need to know before you go.

If you are not enrolled in Medicare, and go to CVS for vaccinations, please be advised that CVS Pharmacies are no longer participating in UnitedHealthcare (UHC) 's National Medical Benefit Agreement, which means that UHC members can no longer obtain preventive vaccines at CVS Pharmacies, except for the COVID-19 vaccine. UHC members can still obtain prescription medication at CVS Pharmacies. If you are a UHC member in need of a preventive vaccine, please visit www.myuhc.com to find a participating pharmacy. Please note that vaccines are covered solely through UHC and not covered under our prescription plan with Express Scripts. Plan ahead so you are not stuck with the bill. Retirees on Medicare can still get vaccines at CVS which Medicare Part B will cover.

Medicare B Reimbursement Program Deadline Reminder **March 31, 2022 for 2021 premiums**

Eligible Port Authority/PATH employees who retired after July 1, 2000, and are age 65 or older, may receive reimbursement for their Medicare Part B premiums. This benefit will also be provided to their eligible spouse at age 65 once the retiree reaches age 65. HealthEquity, formally known as Wageworks, administers this benefit for the Port Authority of NY & NJ and will send a welcome package once a member becomes eligible with details on the required documentation needed to process the 2021 reimbursement. The deadline for submission for the 2021 reimbursement is March 31, 2022. HealthEquity representatives may be reached at (877) 924-3967. Claims can be submitted on the HealthEquity website by logging into your account at www.HealthEquity.com/Wageworks. If you require a hard copy form and prefer to mail in your reimbursement request, please reach out to HealthEquity directly, once you are ready to process the request.

Annual reminders will not be sent out for this program. It is the responsibility of the eligible member to submit for their reimbursement annually.



"Never Forget"
Notable among the commemorations at Port Authority facilities this year were the dedication of an outdoor memorial using recovered WTC steel at Newark Liberty International Airport (L) and a new memorial display at the Port Authority Bus Terminal (R).

Photo Courtesy PANYNJ



Photo Courtesy PANYNJ



Photo Credit: Mark Duffy



Photo Credit: Mark Duffy

Remembrance activities included weekly ceremonies to place roses on the names of Port Authority victims at the Memorial pools. Many retirees participated at the September 1st event, including PARA Vice Presidents Rae Ann Hoffmann and Maria Malone-Hodges and former Chief Engineer Frank Lombardi, who addressed attendees.

Those We Have Lost (In Memoriam)

as of 11/1/2021

Carole A. Margotson	4/20/2021	Augusto Bautista Tiongson	8/02/2021
George Azrak Sr.	5/08/2021	Jonathan M. Samperi	8/03/2021
Lillian Johnson	5/11/2021	Barbara A. Cortese	8/04/2021
Kevin T. McKenna	5/24/2021	Richard J. Aylmer	8/05/2021
John R. LoPresto	5/24/2021	Shirley D. Holliday	8/07/2021
Joseph E. Savino	5/24/2021	Lorne Alvin Ingram	8/11/2021
Kevin J. Sanchez	5/24/2021	Paul B. Mager	8/15/2021
Edward Joy Holliday (EJ)	5/26/2021	Thomas W. O'Keeffe	8/26/2021
Thomas J. Finnegan Jr.	5/27/2021	Mary Ann Cap	9/06/2021
Albert Michael Lysak	6/11/2021	Joseph P Carrigan	9/10/2021
Nicholas (Nick) P. DeMarco	6/16/2021	Neil S. Pisk	9/13/2021
Kenneh Miles Strier	6/28/2021	Barry J. Zillmer	9/14/2021
Howard R. Bergendahl	6/29/2021	Robert L. Bechner	9/15/2021
Greg Burnham	7/02/2021	William N. Albach	10/03/2021
Anthony Gonzales	7/02/2021	Stephen T. Wickers	10/10/2021
Kelly Ann O'Donnell	7/04/2021	Brian W. Culver	10/30/2021
Thomas G. Trotta	7/06/2021	Warren F. Kaiser	10/30/2021
Henry A. Hirschel	7/10/2021	Susan Keane	11/01/2021
Louis L. Araneo	7/14/2021	Brian Conroy	11/01/2021
Charles T. Papetti	7/19/2021		

Names of deceased include those reported to PARA between 4/30/2021 and 11/1/2021

You can get more information by going to the following links and then clicking on a specific person's name.

https://paranynj.org/Memorial/2020/In_Memorial_2020.htm

https://paranynj.org/Memorial/In_Memorial_Archive.htm

In addition to this listing, please remember in your thoughts and prayers those members of our retiree community and their families who have been afflicted with COVID-19 and, most especially, those whose lives have been taken as a result of this deadly disease.