



January 2016

# FORERUNNERS

Newsletter

## **Note from the President, Vonda Belanger**

We are announcing our new Online Retiree Directory and hope you will complete the new form which is included and send it to us via the webpage or US Mail, so that your information can be included in our new Directory. It's a great way to keep in touch with old friends.

Consumers Energy and CMS Energy retirees are all receiving our Forerunners Newsletter this month, whether or not you are currently a member.

We hope you will consider joining one of our Forerunners Chapters. All chapter presidents' names and phone numbers are listed on the reverse side and, if you would like more info or to join a local chapter, please call and ask about how to join this organization.

As we begin a new year, I would like to thank everyone for your support of the Forerunners. I hope you had a safe and Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## **Dues Changes**

Since the formation of the Forerunners, our dues structure has been \$5 per year. Almost 15 years ago, we created a Lifetime Membership of \$25. A few years later, the Lifetime Membership was increased to \$50. This kept us afloat for many years. However, the Lifetime membership has outlived its usefulness and has been discontinued. Of course, those who already are Lifetime members will retain that membership.

The annual dues have been set at \$10/year beginning January 1, 2016. We believe we can provide more service with this increase without it being a burden on our members. We have been subsidizing, to a limited extent, some of our activities. With rising costs from food suppliers and event venues, our hope is to keep the current level of charges for our activities as well as continue our scholarship program and other benefits currently offered.

## **Online Directory**

As you know, the world is fast becoming much more electronically "plugged in" and we are no exception. We have a website ([www.consumersenergy.com/retiree](http://www.consumersenergy.com/retiree)) which is being redesigned to provide even more information. One of the features will be a brand-new **Retiree Online Directory**. This will include names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers for all retirees who wish to participate. You may have any or all of this information listed so that your friends and co-workers will be able to contact you. Another benefit is that the directory will be updated much more frequently. We encourage you to provide us your email address if you have one. This will allow us to contact you much more quickly if an issue arises that needs your attention.

**In order to do this, we must have your permission! We are including a form which we need you to complete and return to us.**

You may send it by US mail or go to the website, click on the link to the form which will send us the information via email. If your name already appears on the present list, you must send an updated form. This permission will be valid until you want to change it.

## **Energy Policy**

Congratulations! More than 4,500 of you (retirees) have responded to the request from the governmental affairs staff to make your voice heard in Lansing by sending letters to your legislators letting them know Consumers Energy retirees are very qualified to advise them and expect them to take our opinions into account when they consider the current energy policy.

Thank you for taking time to participate in this grass roots activity. Consumers Energy management is well aware of the influence of our retirees and depends on it when necessary. A job very well done!



RETIREE WEBSITE: [www.consumersenergy.com/retiree](http://www.consumersenergy.com/retiree)

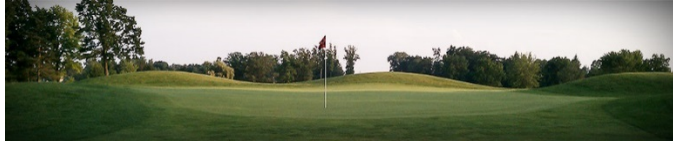
Email address: [retiree@consumersenergy.com](mailto:retiree@consumersenergy.com)

# Happy New Year

## Reunion Meeting – September 2016

The 2016 annual reunion will be hosted by the Capitaliers Chapter, Lansing.

Golf is scheduled for September 13 at the Emerald Golf Course, St John's MI.



The reunion luncheon will be held on September 14 on the Michigan Princess riverboat, Grand River Park, Lansing. We have booked the entire boat for our luncheon and cruise.

Watch for further details as they develop.



## New Chapter Officers

Several chapters have elected new officers. We are happy to welcome:

Kalamazoo Clann, Linda Marklin  
Lansing Capitaliers, Sue Garland

If you are interested in taking a leadership role, we are currently searching for a new team for the Muskegon chapter. Please let Vonda know if you are interested.

## Forerunners Scholarships – 2016

The Forerunners Board has established four \$800 scholarships to be awarded to a graduating high school senior, who is a child or grandchild of a fully active dues-paying member of the Forerunners. In addition, one \$1,000 Richmond Brothers, Inc scholarship will be awarded. Forms to apply for this award will be available on January 1, 2016 and are due in the Retiree Office by June 15, 2016. Winners will be selected by drawing and presented at our September 2016 Reunion and Annual meeting.

## Retiree Office

Did you know that there is a Retiree Office in Jackson at Parnall Road? If you have questions, feel free to give us a call. We may not have your answers but we will try our best to direct you to someone who can help. The office address is Consumers Energy, P21-504, 1945 W Parnall Road, Jackson MI 49201. Our phone number is 517-788-1221. Office hours are random (after all, we are retired!), but we have an answering machine so you can leave a message and we will return your call when we are there. It may be a few days, so don't worry, we will be in touch. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number. It is also helpful if you mention the purpose of your call. The office is available to all retirees.

## Chapter Presidents

**Adrian** - Adrianites, Alan Morgenthaler, 517-265-7539

**Alma** - Grey Power, Bob Divelbiss, 989-833-2403

**Arizona** - Sun Runners, John Ralph, 623-935-9772

**Battle Creek** - Kilowatt Kreekers, Margaret Skinner, 269-967-2263

**Flint** - Easterners, Tom Bollman, 810-793-1046

**Grand Rapids** - Livewires, Frank Zimmerman, 616-656-1147

**Jackson** - Jacksonians, Tom Heikkinen, 517-78-5281

**Kalamazoo** - Kalamazoo Clann, Linda Marklin, 269-628-0000

**Lansing** - Capitaliers, Sue Garland, 517-543-9488

**Livonia** - Blue Flames, Sue Breckenridge, 734-453-2251

**Monroe County** - Southeasterners, Jerry Ridner, 419-340-2968

**Muskegon** - Lakesiders, Vacant

**Royal Oak** - Metro Region Pioneers, Phyllis Leo, 586-677-9235

**Saginaw, Bay City, Midland** - Wonderwatts, Len Bobick, 989-893-2418

**Tawas** - Northeastern Lights, Lee Lockman, 989-362-7003

**Traverse City** - Northwesterners, Chuck Hollman, 231-947-8279

**Forerunners President** – Vonda Belanger, 517-376-6395