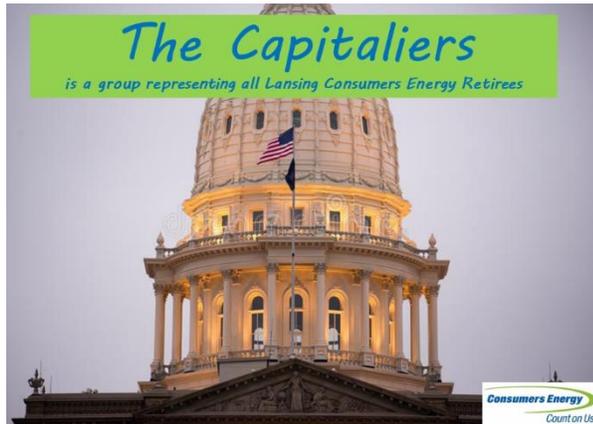


THE CAPITALIERS

LANSING CONSUMERS ENERGY RETIREES



DATE:

10/11/23

TIME:

11:00am-2:00pm

LOCATION:

Jimmy's Pub, 16830 Chandler Rd, East Lansing. Everyone was able to order from the regular menu. This is the location for our November meeting also.

BOARD

Mia Keefer-President, Cyndi Puffenberger-Vice President, Marilyn Burns-Treasurer, Sherry Sinko-Secretary, Amanda Brooks-Event Coordinator and Paula Thomas-Community Outreach

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Reviewed Meeting Minutes from September 2023

AGENDA

11-11:30 Welcome, CPCU Credit Union, Review September Meeting Minutes

11:30-1:30 CPCO-CE Trivia Game, Treasurer Report, 50/50 Drawing, Events (Casino Trip, December Holiday Party), Retiree Spotlight, Community Outreach, Bi-Laws Review, Medicare Townhall, Good News to Share.

BUDGET

Our current account has \$1245.23.

CPCU deposits \$5.00 into our account for every attendee. Members do not have to belong to CPCU for this added benefit.

The cost to join Capitaliers is \$5.00 per person. Dues are good from 1/1 to 12/31 of each year, no matter when you join.

50/50 drawing was held. This month's winner was Dawn Fonger. \$36.00 was the split. Congratulations!

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Kindy from Consumers Professional Credit Union spoke to the meeting attendees about **fraudulent letters** from scammers. A fake home warranty letter was sent and IT IS NOT from Consumers Professional Credit Union. Dave is retiring end of year. CPCU has some promotional rates for CDs. Possible Interest rate increase of a quarter percent by end of year. Some very good rates for loans. Dave also introduced his replacement; Terry Garrison. The credit union has completed its merge with Saginaw County Employees Credit Union. No name changing is planned at this time.

Chris Thelen was appreciative for his time spent talking about his book at the September meeting. Those who have read the book went on to say how good it was and that he should write another one. You can purchase the book *Island of Deception* at Barnes & Noble or online at Amazon.

A mass email has been sent to retirees from Lansing CE to generate an increase in membership. If you are FB friends with employees who have retired, invite them to join us

Treasury Report was provided by Marilyn Burns, see the [Budget](#) section

Helen Riendeau was not able to attend this month and provide a Forerunners update. The Forerunners were meeting the same day.

Members played a game that highlighted years of service, activities within CPCO and Consumers Energy. Members were challenged to bring one of their favorite CPCO or CE memorabilia. Lots of fun discussion around the items and the questions in the game. Members were awarded points based on the question. The highest score went to Don Anderson who received a small Halloween mug and candy.

The December Holiday party date has been changed to December 11. This was after a member vote. The Arms and Embers restaurant in Grand Ledge has been selected as the location. The cost will be \$10.00 per member (\$20.00 non-member), and the remaining expense will be picked up by the Capitalier's funds. There will be a limited menu and a cash bar. The group has decided that gifts selected from the Angel Tree at our upcoming November meeting will be collected at this time. The event will be updated on Facebook to reflect these changes. Be sure to RSVP and feel free to bring your significant other.

Paula Thomas provided a Community Outreach update. If you are interested in learning more about how you can get involved in any of the organizations below, please reach out to Paula Thomas.

- The Davies Project Coffee Invite will be posted on our FB page. If you are interested in volunteering for this organization, this would be your chance to hear more about it.
- Footprints of Michigan, collects new/used (good/clean condition) tennis shoes and provides them to kids any size (new to veterans). **We will collect shoes at our November meeting if you have any that you would like to donate.**
- New Hope Pet Rescue was our April 2023 meeting donation recipient.
- Old Newsboy will have opportunities in December.
- Cristo Rey is seeking volunteers for November/December timeframe to fill boxes with food
- Special Olympics Training is coming up
- Angel Tree items will be available at our November meeting with collection at our December Christmas party. We are gifting a retirement home in Williamston who was severely affected by the most recent tornado.

The Board met at Reno's North on October 6 to draft bi-laws for the Capitaliers. The final draft was submitted to the members at the October meeting. The bi-laws are intended to be simple. They will be reviewed annually for any updates. If any member has any historical data pertaining to past positions/board members, please get that information to Mia.

Cyndi Puffenberger and Sherry Sinko held a Medicare Townhall session to share their experiences regarding VIA Benefits, Medicare Advantage and Medigap insurance options. Both were very knowledgeable and helpful in sharing their experiences so others could learn from them. Employee Benefits contacted Mia Keefer in September and had to decline the October meeting. They have offered to come out in May of 2024. Thank you, Cyndi and Sherry, for answering so many questions. Your expertise was very helpful.

• ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Frank Manning is a first time Great Grandfather. Congratulations.
October Birthdays: Sherry Sinko, Penny Furniss and Dale Burgess.

COMMITTEE REPORT OUT

Upcoming Events:

October 25, Breakfast at St Johns Big Boy – 9am, carpool or caravan to Soaring Eagle. You can also choose to just join us for breakfast, just accept the FB invite or contact Amanda so we have the appropriate headcount for the restaurant.

December 11: Christmas Party date has been changed. Location is Arms and Embers Restaurant in Grand Ledge. 1130-2p, more details to come in November.

No volunteer opportunities this month but lots of volunteer information provided at meeting.

RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

To help us get to know everyone better, each meeting we will recognize a retiree who is willing to share their story so that we all can get to know each other a little better. This month **Paul Thomas** shared her story.



Paula began her career at Consumers Energy in 1983 at Central Mail Remittance as a part timer and four years later began her full-time career working in Gas Scheduling. During her career she also was part of several different orgs including: Gas T&S, Reg Con/Leak Con, Data Transfer at Parnall, and SAP Electric Smart meters, and Gas Con Modules.

Paula and her husband Fred have four children and 6 grandkids. Her daughter works for Consumers Energy. Paula retired in 2019 after 36 years with the company.

For November, Clarence Hill will share his story in honor of Veteran's Day. Please reach out to Mia Keefer if you would like to be a future candidate for the Retiree Spotlight.

ATTENDEES

Donna Bowman, Sue Gillies, Cyndi Puffenberger, Peny Furniss, Dawn Fonger, Frank Manning, Lu Darr, Kathy Wilson, Clarence and Alice Hill, Larry and Joyce Jones, Paula Thomas, Ron Wilson, Don Anderson, Suzanne Wright, Bob and Marilyn Burns, Penny Wells, Sherry Sinko, Dale and Edna Burgess, and Mia Keefer.

If we missed someone, please let us know so we may correct our records.

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

November 14, 11a-2p, Jimmy's Pub East Lansing

- We are able to order directly from the menu, so there are no lunch specials.
- Wear your Red, White, and Blue
- With slick weather approaching, the Office on Aging will be presenting a topic called It's a Matter of Balance.

December 11, Christmas Party, Arms and Embers in Grand Ledge. More details to come.

SMILE! YOU ARE ON CAMERA

