

# ***CMS FORERUNNERS***

## ***SOUTHEASTERNS CHAPTER***

*"The mission of this organization is fraternal, to represent the interests of all retirees; to expand and strengthen fellowship among its members; and to provide leadership, information, programs and social activities."*



President:	C. J. Schwartz	419.270.373
Past President	Jerry Ridner	419.340.2968
Secretary/newsletter editor		
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Treasurer		
Tony Homolka		734.847.8846
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The breakfast meeting was held on January 8, 2018. Members present were: C.J. Schwartz, Tony and Linda Homolka, Ralph Luft, Ken Pearsall, Jim Kominek, Eddie Weaver, Mike Costello, Floyd Martin, Gherin Johnston, Harry Redford, David Harvey, Neil Wagner, Jim Abram, Pat and Jim Lammers, Darlene Collins and Tom Cooper.

The 50/50 raffle was won today by Linda Homolka.

The treasurer's report shows \$47.00. Tony Homolka has agreed to take on the duties of Treasurer. A vote was taken and his position was unanimously agreed upon.

C.J welcomed all attendees this morning. He announced that the Monroe Grill is very close to being operational with a couple of inspections due soon. We may decide to move there for our monthly meetings.

C.J. went to the Adrianites meeting last month to hear Lora Christopher speak on CMS benefits. We hope to set a date for her to come to speak to us this spring.

A spokesperson from the Bedford Senior Center will come to speak to us as well about Medicare and Social Security benefits.

We hope to plan an event this summer where we have some kind of picnic for members to get together.

Some members reminisced about an event 38 years ago today. In 1980, the chill factor was 6 degrees below zero. The control box for the water tower froze because of a malfunctioning heating element. Due to this, the guys in the basement had to operate the water pressure manually. As a result of all this, the water tower overflowed. There were giant icicles hanging from the tower and frozen water over the whole parking lot. The icicles were dangerous and a threat to the safety of workers. A crane was brought in to break off the frozen daggers of ice.

Others of talked about the blizzard of 1978, which is sometimes called the White Hurricane. It struck on January 25<sup>th</sup> that year. It is reported to have been the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest recorded air pressure on the mainland US in history. Snowfalls ranged in the Midwest from 12" to 36" with 12-20 foot snow drifts. Tony Homolka recalled going to work that day on a snowmobile. The only way he knew he was on the highway was to watch the electric poles and try to stay between them. He picked up Dale Mehki on the road where he had gotten stuck. After tipping over several times, they both made it to the J.R. Whiting plant. They didn't get home for a couple of days since workers couldn't get in. Joe Simek took all the soup cans from the vending machine and cooked them together in a pot along with any food they could find. The Erie fire department eventually came and brought food on their snowmobiles. The plant kept the power going even though the coal came in frozen with snow and mud. The operators had to beat the pipes with sledgehammers to keep the coal going to the mills.

Congratulations to Jim and Pat Lammers who will celebrate their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 18<sup>th</sup>!



The next meeting will be Monday, February 5, 2018 at the Bedford Diner. Please see the form below for your 2018 membership dues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Homolka

FORERUNNERS Member Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Retiree? \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Headquarters Retired From: J.R. Whiting

Forerunners Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ South Easterners \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate address: Winter \_\_\_\_ Summer \_\_\_\_

Forerunners Dues \$10/year plus any Chapter dues: Attached Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Note: We are always searching for more efficient and timely methods of communicating with our members. Electronic communications are very helpful in this regard. Your e-mail address may be used to send information of interest to retirees by the Forerunners, for example, notification that the Retireeline has been posted on the retirees' website, important issues concerning the company, etc. Your address, of course, will NOT be shared outside of the Forerunners office.

By giving us your e-mail address, you are agreeing to receive information from us via e-mail.

Please complete and mail to:

Consumers Energy Forerunners, 1945 Parnall Road P21-504, Jackson, MI 49201. If you have any questions, please call us at 517-788-1221.

