

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."



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The breakfast meeting was held on September 10, 2018. Members present were: C.J. Schwartz, Ralph Luft, Tony and Linda Homolka, Harry Redford, Ken Pearsall, Jim Kominek, Jerry Ridner, Frank Lambert, Darlene Collins, Tim Kolb, Mike Costello, Jim Lammers, Dave Krawetzke, Steve Sabo and Brian Watters.

The 50/50 raffle was won today by Steve Sabo.

The treasurer's report shows \$145.00.



C.J. welcomed all attendees this morning. He attended the board meeting on August 16th in Williamston, MI. The big topic of discussion was the concern that no one has stepped up to take a leadership role for the Forerunners. Questions to be considered by all of us are:

1. With no volunteers for President or Vice-president, how do we see the leadership being handled in the future?

- Leadership by committee?
- Discontinuing the Forerunners?
- Led by Chapter Presidents, choosing a chairperson?
- Have only a Treasurer to collect dues?

2. Where do we see the Forerunners in 5 years?

3. What do we recommend for the future of the Forerunners?

4. Has the organization outlived its usefulness?

The President vacancy will occur in November 2019. Anyone interested in exploring this or other leadership positions with the Forerunners or local Chapters, contact Vonda Belanger at vondaleigh@msn.com.

Comments on the Annual Reunion:

The golf outing is very well-attended.

How can we increase attendance at the luncheon meeting?

- Destination setting, such as Michigan Princess, Meijer Gardens (can be expensive)?
- Banquet hall with live entertainment?
- Have the meeting the same day as the golf outing?
- Any other options or suggestions.

Our Chapter donated a \$25.00 gift card to be given as a prize at the golf outing.

CJ was also told that anyone who is behind in membership dues will have their name removed from the roster and will not receive the RetireeLine newsletter. To avoid this, Linda will have membership forms available and will collect your \$10.00 dues in January. Linda will keep a log of payments and create a membership card so we all can remember who is paid up. Please keep in mind that these minimal dues go for the scholarships that are awarded to family members of retirees.

C.J. asked if anyone wanted a Forerunners retiree "license plate" to mount on the front of the vehicle. If so, please let him know. The cost is \$5.

CJ also announced that he will be stepping down from his position as president of our chapter at the end of the year.

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Please consider taking on this responsibility. You will get lots of help from us.

There was some general discussion about the upcoming changes for Medicare Coverage enrollment. You should have received the **"2019 Getting Started Guide"** from VIA Benefits. You will create a personal profile either by going online to www.My.ViaBenefits.com/cmsenergy or call 1-888-604-2921. This customer service representative will not be able to answer your questions about plans. After that, you will schedule a call to enroll. This will be a licensed benefit advisor who will walk you through the coverage options.

Save the date We decided to have our Christmas party on Thursday, December 13th.



CJ will talk to the owner of the Monroe Grill to confirm this date. We will still have our monthly meeting on Monday the 3rd of December. We will order off the menu (and there is bar ;-).

It was noted that Vicky Pratt Spang passed away recently. I was unable to find an obituary to pass along to those who may have known her. She worked in the coal yard at Whiting.

Our resident artist, Jerry Ridner came to show his latest creation. He whittled this walking stick out of a cherry tree root. He named it the “one-eyed, one-horned purple people eater”.



The group will meet at the **Monroe Grill** again next month on **October 1st at 9:00 A.M.**

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.

