

Blue Flame Retirees Club

MAY 2024 EDITION

NEXT MEETING May 14, 2024 10:30am

Michael Cretu
Central Battalion Director
Detroit Fire Department
Fire Safety



PLEASE NOTE

Tom and Nancy Funtsch are collecting pop and beer can tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Please bring them to the General Meeting.

To receive the DEAR newsletter (Detroit Edison / Michcon Alliance of Retirees), please send your address to DEAR c/o Charlie Mahoney, 36172 Fairway Drive, Livonia MI 48152. If you would also like to make a contribution, make it payable to DEAR and send to Robert Barrette, 58 Greenbriar Lane, Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236. The DEAR webpage is located at: www.dearalliance.org.

Please respect the speaker and come on time. The meeting starts at 10:30am. Also, due to security issues, the door is locked. Someone stands guard at the door to let you in until 10:30.

Attached on the last page is the DTE Participation Agreement. We need it completed to claim our annual \$5000 stipend. Please complete and send to Blue Flame Club, P.O. Box 806234, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080-9998. You can also find the form on our website: www.blueflameclub.com.

Goodfellow dolls are available at each month's meeting and if you need doll clothes, you can purchase them from Jan, Kathy or a website listed in the handout. Dolls are due back by September's meeting.

President
MICKI BLAZ
313-819-5359
mickifinn7267@gmail.com

Vice President
JOHN MIDDLESTEAD
734-502-5510
jamiddlestead@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer
BILL CLINE
734-676-1246
clinew@wowway.com

Recording Secretary
JANET YNTEMA
313-882-0990
Janety602@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary
TOM WOZNAK
248-859-5336
twozniak@mac.com

Membership Secretary
NANCY FUNTSCH
734-301-8012
nancyf@charter.net

Directors

EDWARD JONES
313-999-4927
edwardjones678@hotmail.com

LORI LABRECQUE
586-246-2690
Lola2022@wowway.com

RON LINSLEY
586-883-0996
linsley.ron1@comcast.net

DONNA LONG
248-569-8617
suedonna.4148@gmail.com

PAT WAGNER
586-573-8422
patwagner7@comcast.net

MARCIA WHITED
734-377-9630
mlw3113@aol.com

DARLENE WEST
734-812-5539
westdm28@gmail.com

50/50 Raffle

\$25 Pat Srodawa
\$25 Gloria Watts

\$20 Maureen Posler
\$20 Pat Wagner

\$20 Marcia Whited
\$20 Micki Blaz

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, May, 2024
Nancy Funtsch, Membership Secretary

New Members

Helen Walters

Deceased

James Gutowski - April 4, 2024
(Wife Helen becomes Associate Member)

Total Membership as of 04-13-24

281

PLEASE NOTE:

The 2024 Blue Flames membership renewal campaign is wrapping up. A pre-addressed envelope to use to mail in your 2024 dues was included in the October newsletter. Your check for \$15 should be made payable to Blue Flame Retirees Club and sent to PO Box 806234, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. You can also renew at the monthly general membership meeting. Members who have not renewed for 2024 will be dropped from the roles in April and will no longer receive a monthly newsletter. 60 Members have not yet renewed their membership for 2024.

We often send out e-mails to our members for important announcements, member deaths, etc. If you are not receiving e-mails, we may not have an accurate e-mail address on file. There are many members for which we have no e-mail addresses. If you would like to add one, please send to nancyf@charter.net.

GENERAL MEETINGS

May 14
June 11
July 9

MEMORY JOGGERS & FUTURE EVENTS

RAFFLE TICKETS	Janet Yntema, 3862 Grayton, Detroit, MI 48224
DUES & NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGE	Blue Flame Retirees Club P.O. Box 806234 St. Clair Shores, MI 48080-9998 nancyf@charter.net , 734-301-8012
CONDOLENCES & SICK	Pat Wagner 586-573-8422 patwagner7@comcast.net . If you leave a message: speak loud and clear, leave a phone number, and repeat key data. For condolences, our club makes a \$25 memorial donation to a charity designated by the family. This applies only for the club member who was the employee.
NEWSLETTER	Call or mail anything of interest to: Tom Wozniak 248-859-5336 41130 Fox Run Road #221, Novi, MI 48377 twozniak@mac.com
SPEAKERS	John Middlestead 734-502-5510 jamiddlestead@sbcglobal.net
BOARD MEETINGS	Union Hall, 10:30 AM Last Tuesday of the month
MEMBERSHIP MTGS	10:30 AM 2nd. Tuesday, Lunch at 11:30 Local 223 Union Hall, 15160 Commerce Drive North, Dearborn, Michigan, 48120 (March thru November)
NAME ON CHECKS	Make checks payable to BLUE FLAME RETIREES' CLUB
WEBSITE	www.blueflameclub.com

To have your old photos reprinted in the Blue Flame Newsletter, contact Tom Wozniak at 248-859-5336 or twozniak@mac.com

To get the DTE Alumni Newsletter via email, please send your request to alumni@dteenergy.com.

The DTE Benefits Resource Center number is 866-899-4383 or www.ybr.com/dteenergy.

Payflex: retiree.payflexdirect.com or 855-652-0112.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Bill Cline

The bank balance as of March 31st is \$16,296.19 and the charity can contribution was \$73.

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Dr. Mary Clark, AARP



Preparing for and Cost of Caregiving

Are you prepared to be a caregiver? Many are not. Something happens and you rise to the occasion. Family caregivers juggle many tasks: laundry, cooking, driving the person to appointments, keeping pills organized, picking up prescriptions, helping someone get dressed, handling bills. You feel overwhelmed, juggle many tasks. You are a silent warrior. “The human contribution is an essential ingredient. It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live.” *Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus*

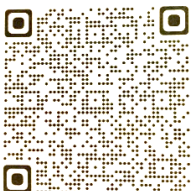
Most caregivers spend about 25 hours per week. In 2022 there were 48 million caregivers. And the situation affects not just the caregiver but their family also.

You need to create a plan. There are **five steps** in creating a plan.

1. Conversation – Have a 2-way dialog with the person. They might not want to but it is better to do it. Look for an opening, share information, maybe an experience. Respect your loved one’s wishes but have that dialog.
2. Form your team – family, friends, but also assistance programs. Assign roles and responsibilities.
3. Make a plan – assess the goals and needs of your team, have a team meeting and include the person who will receive the care. Delegate responsibilities. Take notes and keep everyone informed of the plan. Then you can avoid duplicate efforts.
4. Find support – there are resources in your community. AARP had a booklet available “AARP Family Caregiver Resource Guide” which lists many resources: health resources, financial, legal, housing and others. Some support you will need to pay for.
5. Lastly but still important – care for yourself. Tap into resources, review your finances (don’t overextend yourself). Talk to your doctor and let them know you are caring for someone. This can help them understand why perhaps your blood pressure isn’t normal, why you aren’t feeling well, or you might be sleep deprived. Advocate for yourself. Take a break.

aarp.org/caregiving or call 1-877-333-5885 Ask for their care booklet.

aarp.org/events. You can also download the AARP care booklet by scanning the QR code.



WORDS OF WISDOM

It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor.

CONDOLENCES

Jim Gutowski	April 4, 2024
Bill Patterson	March 27, 2024
Francis Lieder Jr.	March, 2024

JOKES

A young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, "This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you." The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, "Which do you want, son?" The boy takes the quarters and leaves. "What did I tell you?" said the barber. "That kid never learns!" Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream parlor. "Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?" The boy licked his cone and replied: "Because the day I take the dollar the game is over!"

DONNA SUE'S MUSINGS

THIS & THAT....DID YOU KNOW?

- Over 100 new marine species were discovered in the *Bounty Trough*, a deep-water depression located off the eastern coast of New Zealand's South Island. Scientists report they think their find includes three new species of fish along with squid, mollusks, shrimp, and a new type of coral. The Trough is said to be flourishing with life. The expedition was conducted by Ocean Census, a non-profit organization. Scientists reported their discoveries in April, 2024.
- What was the *ghost army*? How did this help the war effort? It was a tactical deception unit created by the U. S. Army. The mission of the 1,100-man unit was to mislead Hitler's forces as to the size and location of Allied forces. This army operated between 1944 and 1945 and carried out more than 20 deceptive campaigns using inflatable tanks, sound trucks, and fake radio transmissions. The story is told in a 2013 documentary entitled *The Ghost Army*.
- People lost \$10 billion to *scams* in 2023. What was the top scam? Imposter scams are number one. These scammers pretend to be your bank's fraud department, the government, a distressed relative, a well-known business, or a technical support expert. Be on your guard daily to protect yourself and your family. Also included in the top 10 scams are identity theft, phone and text scams, debt collection, fake government officials, and fake prizes.

- Who is Hansel Enmanuel? *He is an outstanding basketball player who was injured in a childhood accident that resulted in the loss of his arm.* Enmanuel was born in the Dominican Republic and currently plays for the Austin Peay Governors Men's Basketball team in the ASUN Conference in Clarksville, TN. He went viral in early 2021 for his flashy dunks, passes, three-pointers and athleticism against top high school talent and has a NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) deal with Gatorade. Check him out.

- AARP reports that 1 in 10 Michiganders have been diagnosed with diabetes. Are you one of them? Could you be? Check with your doctor and visit the CDC site. Go to this link: [Awareness Campaigns | CDC](#)

- *Obituary Pirates*-Beware! Attorney General Dana Nessel advises " Don't create opportunities for scammers by posting too much information about deceased family members and friends online. That information can be used to open new bank accounts, submit false tax returns and other fraudulent activity.

May Birthdays

5/2--Dwayne Johnson, 5/6--Chris Paul, 5/9--Billy Joel, 5/13--Stevie Wonder, 5/16--Janet Jackson, 5/20--Cher, 5/29--John F Kennedy, 35th President of the United States

Dates of Interest

- Kentucky Derby—5/4
- Mother's Day—5/12 (Do not forget this day)
- Memorial Day—5/27, This is the day we pay homage to all those who lost their lives fighting on behalf of the U. S. in the military. This federal holiday is observed annually on the last Monday in May. President Bill Clinton signed the National Moment of Remembrance Act on Dec. 28, 2000, designating 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day as a National Moment of Remembrance.