

MEMBERSHIP DUES

We are all currently facing rising costs due to inflation and any other number of reasons. With this in mind and, in an effort to lighten your financial burden, Aetna Retirees Association has determined that now is an opportune time for us to pause dues payments. Accordingly, effective immediately, we will no longer be sending you annual dues notices. The ARA Newsletters will continue.

We have arrived at our decision after a careful consideration of resources needed to protect our retirement benefits in the foreseeable future. Should any unforeseen threats emerge, we will reassess our financial position and, if appropriate, reinstitute the collection of dues.

We are well aware of, and very thankful for, many of our members who make voluntary donations either in conjunction with their annual dues payments or separately during the year. We want to let you know that voluntary contributions will still be welcomed.

We also hope pausing your dues is some small welcome news versus the rising costs we all face.

As you communicate with a retiree, retiree group or a colleague, we encourage you to provide them with information and the benefits of joining ARA. Please refer any prospective members to our website at <u>www.aetnaretirees.com</u> for additional information and an application form. Further, you may encourage prospective members to contact any Board Member for additional information. If, however, a retiree or colleague does not wish to become an active member and would still like to hear what we are doing, please have them state "communications only" on the application. We will send them our communications.

CONTACT ARA!

We welcome your comments, questions, ideas and letters to the editor. See mail and website addresses on page 1.

Sharon Reed, Editor Marilyn Wilson, Editor Emeritus