

President's Message

John Schnittgrund

The past 2 social events have been lunches and we have had many attendees that we don't see at dinners. We have also had a few new hire retirees in attendance. The feedback has been positive, as there have been no traffic issues and no night time driving issues to report. Paying for what you eat has also made the events much more affordable. The lunches seem to be popular enough that there will be more of these events in the future.

At the last pension board meeting there was an offhand discussion regarding the soon to be appointed pension administrator. The person in this position will answer any questions you might have regarding the Old Hire Pension and will be responsible for making sure problems like we experienced with the audit and its cause or causes, don't happen again. The discussion included mention of the recent retirement of Myra Simmons from the City HR unit and the thought that she might be appointed to this new position.

I brought this information to our board meeting and we went through some of the problems I have personally had with Ms. Simmons and outlined problems that we have been made aware of by members. At the direction of our board I have sent an e-mail to the city indicating that we do not have confidence in Ms. Simmons as the new administrator. I have also requested that we be involved in the appointment of the administrator before the final decision is made. If any of our affected members want to express their opinion I can suggest that you can e-mail your thoughts to Laura.Wachter@denvergov.org. Hopefully we can make a difference.

I want to start the next part of my message with a disclaimer. **We are not in the insurance business and we are not suggesting that you do anything about your coverage.**

I have always put myself in the hands of the city when it comes to my Health insurance. The City always took care of the Insurance when I was active and they kept up with my coverage when I retired. Making things easy made me complacent and I never gave my health coverage a second thought.

At one of the luncheons, we were talking about health insurance premiums. **This only applies to you if you are over 65 and on Medicare.** Some of our members pay no premiums for their supplemental insurance. After talking for awhile I was given the name of an insurance broker for United Health Care.

The broker informed me that there are many parts to Medicare. You can buy supplemental coverage for any of the parts of Medicare. My wife and I are healthy and do not go to the doctor more than a couple of times a year. We qualify for a supplement that has no premium from United Health Care and by dropping the City plan we save \$9768.00/yr. The coverage for, this is the same as our City plan, just some additional co-pays and a little more out of pocket, but even on a bad day the out of pocket will not approach the \$9768.00 savings. There are different plan options to fit your different needs, but all have much lower premiums than the City plan.

I just think that if you are on Medicare and reasonably healthy it is worth a look to see if you might save some money. As I said, we don't sell insurance, but if this interests you I can give you the contact information for a broker. Kaiser also has the same type of supplements if you contact them.

There is always something going on. We will endeavor to stay on top of anything we think might be of interest. If you have anything you want to share we would like to hear from you.