

The Jacksonian



February 2014

News for and about Jackson-area retirees

Feb. 18 Meeting Change: Your Help is Needed

Your help is needed to defeat House Bill 5184, which would fully deregulate Michigan's electric market. If passed, the bill would open the state's market to companies that, in many cases, don't invest in or create jobs for Michigan. If passed, there also could be electric shortages, which would make electric service unreliable, and sudden and unwelcome price spikes.

Cathy Wilson, Consumers Energy Executive Director of State Governmental Affairs, will meet with retirees in the Parnall cafeteria on Feb. 18 to share critical information about how you can help defeat the bill and ensure your electric service remains reliable and affordable.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. and Wilson's presentation at 1:30 p.m.

Come early and enjoy lunch in the cafeteria with friends. Offerings include grilled chicken sandwich, hamburger or black bean burger (\$2.75); deli sandwiches (most are \$3.50); hot entrée (\$5.50); sandwich of the day with chips (\$5.50); soup (\$1.50 and \$1.99); 20 oz. soda (\$1.40 and \$1.65) and a full salad bar.



Cathy Wilson

Warm a heart...Heat a home!

Donate \$5 or more to the Walk for Warmth and receive a FREE knit hat or scarf. The walk raises awareness and funds to help struggling families pay for home heating and furnace repairs.



There will be a short program in the One Energy Plaza atrium before the 20-minute walk (less than a mile) begins about 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 21. Free hot beverages are available after the Walk. If you turn in the pre-registration/donation form (enclosed with this newsletter) at the Feb. 18 chapter meeting, you can pick up your hat or scarf then. If you mail the form and your donation, your choice of a hat or scarf will be mailed to you. You also can register from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 21 at One Energy Plaza. All donations will be matched by Consumers Energy, so your donation will do twice as much good.

Consumers Buys Jackson Power Plant

Consumers Energy has announced plans to buy the former Kinder Morgan power plant – now DPC Juniper – at 2219 Chapin St., for \$155 million. The natural gas-fueled plant will be in operation under Consumers Energy during the first quarter of 2016. The purchase saves \$545 million by putting off building a new 750-megawatt gas-fired plant in Genesee County costing \$700 million.

Upcoming Events

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| Feb. 18
Tues. | Meet in the Parnall cafeteria to hear Cathy Wilson talk about how you can help defeat House Bill 5184 to deregulate the electric industry. Registration begins at 1 p.m. and Wilson's presentation at 1:30 p.m. Come early and join friends for lunch. |
| Feb. 21
Fri. | Third Annual Walk for Warmth. Registration begins at One Energy Plaza at 11 a.m. and the downtown walk about 11:30 a.m. |
| March 18
Tues. | Tour of the media center at the Jackson District Library Carnegie Branch downtown and information about computer classes. Registration begins in the auditorium at 1 p.m. and the program begins at 1:30 p.m. |
| April 22
Tues. | Spring luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson. See the March newsletter for details and a registration form. |

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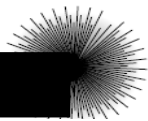
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Sunshine Committee News



- **OUR SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES OF:** _____
James Bryson (ret. 1991) Richard McCollum (ret. 1985) Ralph Newbill (ret. 1994) Rose Sarafin (ret. 1998)
- **OUR SYMPATHY TO RETIREES/EMPLOYEES WHO LOST FAMILY MEMBERS:** _____

Ron Bulthuis (ret. 1989), wife Dee Betsy Domschot, Matt Foster, and Brien Kelley (employees), grandmother Anna Kasprzycki Lowell Farnsworth (ret. 1994), wife DeLois Kitty Foster (ret. 2003), mother Anna Kasprzycki David Goolsby (employee), father Melvin	Steve Haydo (employee), mother Jean Dennis Locke (ret. 2007), father Wayne Ben Sosinski (ret. 2007), son Bryan Jim Sosinski (ret. 2008), nephew Bryan Cathy Walker (employee), aunt Dee Bulthuis
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To have a get-well wish, note of sympathy or congratulations for a landmark anniversary or event included in The Jacksonian, contact Jan Riede at (517) 914-4034 or mikeriede@comcast.net.

Arbor North Welcomes Retirees



Dan Postl (ret. 1985) and Gene Bills (ret. 1990) meet at Arbor North.

An Alberta clipper and sub-zero temperatures weren't enough to keep retirees away from Arbor North Retirement Center for the chapter's Jan. 21 meeting. They were given a warm welcome by Andy Dotterweich, Jacksonians Vice President, and Dan Hawkins, Arbor North's Director of Marketing and Community Relations. Hawkins' mother lives there as well as Consumers retirees Dan Postl (ret. 1985), Art Schuknecht (ret. 1987) and Kenneth Ambs (ret. 1989).



From left: Arbor North residents Donna and Kenneth Ambs and Art and Marian Schuknecht.

Hawkins' presentation highlighted the importance of planning ahead and what to look for when considering moving into a semi-assisted living facility: the need for a little help; an interactive living community whose residents volunteer in local communities; affordable cost; health care services; aging in place; financial assistance available; and a caring staff. He recommended looking around before making a decision. After his presentation, the Ambses and Schuknechts opened their apartments for tours.

Door prize winners were Kay Gimesky (\$20 Meijer card) and Jules Gimesky (membership renewal).

Help Kids by Energizing Education

Energizing Education started with a matching grant from Consumers Energy last year. Its long-range goal is to take the benefits of literacy to all students in Jackson County schools by providing specially-trained literacy mentors to ensure every student will be reading at grade level by third grade.

Literacy mentors work one-on-one with students in kindergarten through second grade to improve reading, writing and fluency. There are openings Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Frost Elementary (Jackson), Arnold Elementary (Michigan Center), Parnall Elementary (Northwest) and George Long Elementary (Grass Lake).

Just a half-hour twice a week can make a big difference to a child. Call (517) 841-2148 or email EnergizingEducationJackson@gmail.com. More information also can be found online at www.energizingeducationjackson.org



Reminder: 2014 Membership Fees are Due

If you have not paid for a lifetime membership in the Forerunners statewide group, you can renew your membership in the Forerunners and Jacksonians Chapter for only \$12 a year. (You must belong to the Forerunners to be a member of the Jacksonians.) If you are a paid lifetime Forerunners member, you can renew your membership in the Jacksonians for only \$7 a year.

Look at your Forerunners membership card or the mailing label on this newsletter to find the year for which you are a paid-up member. Complete and mail the form below with your check for \$12 (if you are not a lifetime Forerunners member) or \$7 (if you are a lifetime Forerunners member) to:

CP Jacksonians, ATT: Treasurer, 1945 W. Parnall Rd., P21-504, Jackson, MI 49201



CP JACKSONIANS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name _____		Spouse _____		
Address _____	Apt. No. _____	City _____	State _____	ZIP _____
(_____) _____	Telephone Number _____	Email Address _____		
Winter Address (if applicable) _____				