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# osarc

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# newsletter

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220 EAST 23RD STREET, SUITE 707  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010  
TELEPHONE: 212-686-1229  
FAX: 212-686-1231  
WEBSITE: WWW.OSAUNION.ORG

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MAY-JUNE, 2000

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The next scheduled meeting of the OSA/OSART Retirees Club (OSARC) will be Wednesday, September 13, 2000 at 12:30 at the OSA office, 220 East 23rd Street, Suite 709. (Note the 1/2 hour later starting time.) This is our first meeting of the year and you are all REQUIRED to be there. Well maybe not required, but desired.

## WE WELCOME ALL NEW RETIREES

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MAY LUNCHEON ATTENDEES... Alice Allen, Leslie Allen, Jean Anmuth, Renee Bash, Elizabeth Borden, Ken Burton, Gloria D'jaha, Tom Gorse, Stanley Granat, Paul Henry, Flora Jones, Roslyn Jones, Sam Kornblatt, Jean Krampner, Irving Kreindler, Richard Kucera, Joel Leichter, Jim McKeon, Dan Morgan, Melba Neeley, John Ost, Edna Riley, Anna Vives and Richard Walters.

JUNE GALA LUNCHEON ATTENDEES... Hakima Al-Zahra, Alice and Leslie Allen, Jean Anmuth, Hanacho Atako, Charles Baroo, Renee Bash, Liz Borden, Yvonne Broughton, Kenneth Burton, Patricia Burton, Ida Chin, Jim and Joyce Cleary, Gloria D'jaha, Vincent Digesu, Tom Gorse, Sheila Gorsky, Shirley Gray, Richard Guarino, Betty Henderson, Alan Hiss, Azeeza Hurston, Flora Jones, Roselyn Jones, Sam Kornblatt, Richard Kucera, Judith Layzer, Joel Leichter, Hank Mandel, Jim McKeon, Dan Morgan, Mary Murphy, Sheldon Oliff, John Ost, Anthony Penel, Bill Pfister, Edna Riley, Ina and Abraham Schwartz, David and Grace Smallwood, Jeanette Springle, Anna Vives and friends Olga and Tony, and Richard Walters,  
All those that attended the meeting will find themselves in the CENTER FOLD!

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS...

CO-CHAIRPERSONS...	DAN MORGAN
AND	ANNA VIVES
TREASURER.....	IDA CHIN
SECRETARY.....	MELBA NEELY



## MAY MEETING AGENDA...

**PARTICIPATION IN OSARC...** A general discussion was held about the over 500 retirees' participation in OSARC, and in particular the participation of those activists to run for Office, and/or help with the monthly set up of the luncheon.

It is understood that many retirees live far far away from New York City, and can't come to monthly meetings. They enjoy the monthly newsletter which gives them much information.

It is important also, to encourage new retirees to come to the meetings. In the past we telephoned members by breaking down the list among the activists. Each one called 10 retirees. Please call your "old" friends from work, and invite them to the September meeting. We'll give out the list at the meeting.

**LUNCHEON COMMITTEE...** The luncheon committee chose a wonderful restaurant downtown near City Hall, Peirno at 105-107 Reade St. 212-513-0610.

Repeat from April Newsletter:

### **CHANGE OF MEETING DATE AND TIME:**

There was discussion around changing the monthly meeting day to accomodate the members of COMRO who have to attend an earlier meeting and then come to the OSARC meeting. The general consensus was to keep the meeting day - 2nd Wednesday of each month - and change the time from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Repeat from April Newsletter:

**MONTHLY LUNCHEON:** Volunteers are needed to help Ana Vives prepare the lunch. Shirley can no longer assume this responsibility due to her own job obligations. (Ed. Ana comes to the office the day before to buy and order the food. The volunteers would have to come at least by 11 A.M. if not earlier on the day of the meeting. The OSA staff prepares the

tables and chairs, the sodas, cake and coffee. Others are needed to prepare the food on trays and basically make sure everything is going right.

The alternative is just to have coffee and cake or bring your own lunch. Please don't let the wonderful monthly meetings deteriorate to that level. You can volunteer once a year. There are only 9 lunches. If we are on an outing one month, then it is only 8 lunches. If we had three OSARC members for 8 lunches, we would only need 24 people. We have more than that at every meeting. Pick your time and stick to it and tell Ana when you are available. It's the least we can do.)

## COMRO REPORT...

o **COLA...** Jim McKeon attended the rally in Albany on 5/9/00 in support of a Permanent COLA. The rally was well attended with approximately 5,000 to 10,000 people. Teachers had 70+ buses, DC 37 had 7 buses and there was a good showing from Upstate. Persons who have been retired the longest will receive the greatest benefit. Permanent COLA will begin this year - 2000. (Please watch for your bulk mailing from OSA, to arrive in mid September, it will have further details on the COLA.)

The COLA will be locked in for all retirees. There is enough money for the "True COLA" to be given- \$116 billion. The idea is for a full permanent COLA adjustment every year.

o **MEDICARE PART B...** This issue was discussed at the COMRO meeting on 5/10/00. Intro 580 by the Pinkett Committee calls for full reimbursement. Peter Vallone is a key figure regarding this issue.

A round of applause for the work and representation that Jim McKeon, John Ost, and Edna Riley are doing at COMRO!



## ROUND ROBIN...

**Renee Bash** shared that there is a trial vaccination for Shingles that can prevent the illness. Volunteers are needed. The process involved taking an injection (medication or placebo) once per month. The volunteer does not know which injection s/he is receiving during the study.

**Richard Kucera** stated that people approaching age 65 will be going on Medicare. Enrollment is automatic upon receipt of Social Security benefits. Medicare will become the primary insurance coverage and GHI will be secondary. (Ed. Part A is automatic and free, but Part B is a voluntary enrollment and costs \$45.50 per month at present. See information on Medicare on back sheet of photos copied from "Guide to Social Security and Medicare" printed by William M. Mercer 462 So. 4th Ave, Suite 1500, Louisville, Kentucky 20404-3431 502-561-4541).

**Ana Vives** elicited a discussion on Long Term Care and asked if any persons had been contact since the presentation at the April meeting when 4 or 5 persons signed up for more information. Needs are individually tailored and cost approximately \$1700 annually.

**Irving Kreindler** stated that Francis Megair represents LTC underwriters. One receives \$100 a day for any type of LTC. It costs about \$1500 per year. An escalator of 5% is usual. There is a 20% discount for husband and wife, or relative sharing the same household.

**Jean Krampner** reminded the group that we need to galvanize people to get involved in the political process. She stressed the importance of voting - getting people to participate. She also expressed compliments to the COMRO representative.

## ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF STAFF ANALYSTS RETIREES CLUB

Hakimah Al-Zahra  
Carmen Alfaro  
Alice Allen  
Clifford Allen  
Leslie Allen  
Marsha Ambrose  
Paul Anderson  
Jean Amuth  
Florence Appelstein  
James Arangio  
Henry Armendinger  
Hanacho Atako  
Robert Backes  
Don Baharav  
Malkit Bains  
Mary Barlow  
Charles Baroo  
Ted Barra  
Renee Bash  
Barbara Batts  
Charles Beckinella  
Rose Beer  
Judith Beiss  
Ruth Bell  
Joanna Belt  
Diana Benitez  
Marilyn Bernard  
George Bennett  
Yidyadhar Bhide  
Helen Klecher  
Elizabeth Borden

Marilyn Reed Borquaye Carmine Borzelli  
Veronica Bright Joyce Bronstorph  
Bertha Mae Brown Herbert Brown  
James Bucchino Shirley Brugman  
Theresa Burke Kenneth Burton  
Patricia Burton Joseph Buster  
Dorothy Bryd Eugene Calvert  
John Campobasso Milton Campbell  
Burton Carlin Phyllis Carr  
Patricia Caruso Janice Cerra  
Lana Cherry Ida Chin  
Estelle Chodosh Marilyn Cirrone  
John Clark Joyce Cleary  
George Cohen Elsie Colon  
Marlene Connor James Corleto

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# THE ORGANIZATION OF STAFF ANALYSTS

## RETIREEES CLUB ACTIVE MEMBERS

Hannibal Coscia	Yvonne Hajjar	Weltha McCant	Norman Roth
Peter Costa	Claire Hall	Thomas McEnery	Anna Rodbary
Stanley Cutchins	Robert Hansen	Thomas McGann	Ed Ruettiger
Liz D'Aversa	Frances Hapaz	Camilla McGuire	Lorraine Russo
Marilyn Baitsman	Marion Harnik	Jim McKeon	Anahid Sarkissian
Dolores Daniels	John Haste	Velma McLaughlin	Marc Sawyer
Pratip Dasgupta	Eliz. Henderson	Elaine McPartland	Theresa Shano
Ralph Delise	Jacq. Henderson	James McQuade	David Schapiro
John Dellecave	Paul Henry	Pearlie Mennell	Elaine Schirmer
Germaine Diamond	Solomon Himelfarb	Margarita Mercado	Ina Schwartz
Roc DiCristofalo	Joseph Holdampf	Brenda Mereu	Peter Schweitzer
Vincent DiGesu	Azeeza Hurston	James Meyer	Thomas Seelye
Tony DiLeonardo	Maria Ibanez	Joseph Mickens	Ida Sessa
Gloria Djaba	Haydee Inclan	John Milat	Wilma Shiffman
Jack Dobrow	Evelyn Jackson	Caroline Miles	Amita Shleifstein
Sheila Donohue	Margaret Jackson	Helen Mitchell	John Siddons
A. William Douglas	Pearl Jackson	Sallie Monk	Edna Sieber
Ed Douglass	Pauline James	Barbara Mont	Sheila Silver
Carla Drije	Edwina Jenkins	Chals Montalbano	Lois Sims
James Duffield	Gloria Jimenez	Dan Morgan	Ina Sinclair
Walter Dugan	Elizabeth Johnson	Susan Mullgrav	Milton Sirota
Martina Elam	Marilyn Johnson	J.J. Murphy	Frederico Sityar
May Engler	Flora Jones	Mary Murphy	Catherine Slade
Linda Erickson	Roslyn Jones	Michael Murphy	David Smallwood
Joyce Eversley	Hal Jorgensen	John Nash	Edward Smith
Camille Fatto	Amy Kahn	Melba Neely	Charlotte Spiegel
William Fellows	Mel Kalmanowitz	Jack Miznick	Janette Springlet
Joan Fillot	Jeffrey Keller	Procesion Obra	Fred Steinberg
Harold Fowler	John Kobelski	Cath. O'Connell	Barbara Stewart
Branda Fox	Marian Konstan	John O'Fee	James Stewart
Beverly Freierman	Henry Korobelnik	Thomas Ogden	Cele Stolzenberg
Manuel Friedman	Jean Krampner	Sheldon Oliff	Penelope Stubbs
Ella Gales	Irving Kreindler	Murray Olsen	Thomas Tallarico
Dianne Gaertner	Richard Kucera	Henry Opad	Tuly Tanenbaum
Lorraine Gewirtz	Adele Kwaw	John Ost	Jean Taylor
Shirley Gilliam	Jeanette Langone	Larry Pappert	Marian Taylor
Mary Giraldi	Anne Lauria	Anita Payne	Barbara Thompson
Myrna Gonzalez	Judith Layzer	Delores Peloso	Arthur Thomsen
Pedro Gonzalez	Jeanette Lee	Sara Perry	Irene Toler
Joan Gordon	Joel Leichter	Mary Ellen Phifer	John Toman
Sheila Gorsky	Nicholas Lesanti	Jack Pilchman	Robert Van Laven
Eli Gottlieb	Andrew Lewis	Arlene Pitt	Ana Vives
Sybil Gowdy	Charles Lieberman	Vincent Polimeni	Vida Wagner
Stanley Granat	Joy Liechenstein	Peter Prestia	Richard Walters
Shirley Gray	James Linhart	Alma Pugliese	Herbert Wasserman
Audrey Green	Lillie Lockhart	Mimi Raimondi	Jacquelyn Watson
Susan Greenhouse	Leopold Lober	Patricia Rashkin	Joanne Webb
Stepehn Gregor	Eileen Lovett	Thomas Reed	Albert Webster
Ira Greinsky	Flora Lucchese	Jeanette Reid	Olga Weiss
Gilbert Gremmie	Marvin Lutemberg	Claus Beinisch	R. Weiss-Fischler
Joel Grill	Rose Maconi	Laura Reisman	Eric Werner
Mary Gropp	Hank Mandel	Jack Reubens	Alyce White
Marcia Grossberg	Angela Marino	Dolores Rice	Grace White
Martin Grower	Donald Marshall	Edna Riley	Margaret Williams
Frank Gulino	Ralph Martinez	Gwendolyn Riley	Bettye Wilson
Tilak Gupta	Dorothy Mason	Arnaldo Rodriguez	Kay Wilson
Phyllis Hailstock	Peter Mastropolo	John Rose	Geraldine Wooden
			Simeon Wright



## JUNE GALA LUNCHEON 2000

What a wonderful luncheon OSARC had on June 14th of this year! We were at a new restaurant for us - Pierno at 105-107 Reade Street in lower Manhattan, near where many of us worked in the past.

The menu was wonderful, offering choice of 4 entrees - grilled salmon, tortellini with shrimp, chicken breast or rigatoni bolognese. There were appetizers, many extra pre-meal snacks, and fantastic creme brulee or sorbet for dessert. And OSA bought us wine which we imbibed with great smiles on our faces - all 47 of us who attended. Thanks again, OSA; you always take good care of us! All this for \$20 for members and \$30 non-members. OSARC paid the difference.

We also thank the OSARC committee who located this place - mainly Edna Riley - and recommend the food to our friends and others.

Lots of smiling faces in the centerfold photo shots are saying - Come join us next year as a very good time was had by all!



## 8 Medicare

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for persons age 65 and over, and certain disabled persons. Medicare has two parts: Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance).

Part A of Medicare pays some of the costs of hospitalization and limited nursing-home care. Part B primarily covers doctors' fees, most outpatient hospital services, and certain related services. Both Parts A and B cover many home health services. Medicare does not cover long-term nursing home care.

Medicare beneficiaries can receive healthcare services either under the Original Medicare Plan, or from a Medicare Managed Care Plan.

The Original Medicare Plan is a fee-for-service plan. It is available anywhere in the U.S. Under Original Medicare you can go to any doctor or hospital that accepts Medicare patients. The patient or the patient's other insurance is responsible for deductibles and copayments. Original Medicare does not cover most prescription drugs. The large majority of Medicare beneficiaries are in Original Medicare. Most of them have supplemental coverage from an employer or union-sponsored

retiree plan, or from one of the standard Medigap Plans.

Many Medicare beneficiaries opt to receive healthcare services from a Medicare Managed Care Plan instead of Original Medicare. These are available in many, but not all, areas of the country. A person must first be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B before enrolling in a Medicare Managed Care Plan. Most managed care plans require plan members to visit only those hospitals, doctors and other healthcare providers that are approved by the plan. Many of these plans offer additional benefits such as prescription drugs, but they usually charge an additional monthly premium. Even so, out-of-pocket expenses are often lower and more predictable under a managed care plan.

### Who Pays For Medicare

Part A is financed primarily by payroll taxes on covered work and is premium free for nearly all beneficiaries.

About one-fourth of Part B is financed by monthly premiums (generally, \$45.50 in 2000) from enrollees and about three-fourths by the general revenues of the federal government.

also becomes available after you have been entitled to Social Security disability benefits for two years, and generally if you have end-stage renal disease (kidney failure). Certain members of your family with kidney disease may also qualify.

You automatically apply for Medicare when you apply for Social Security benefits. If you plan to work past age 65, you can apply for Medicare separately when you turn 65.

If you have coverage under an employer-sponsored plan based on your or your spouse's current employment, you will usually want to wait until you retire to apply for Part B. This is because the employer plan may be the primary payer, and Medicare Part B may offer little, if any, additional coverage to justify paying the Part B premium. Also, the six-month open-enrollment period to enroll in a Medigap plan begins with the first month that you are age 65 or over and enrolled in Part B.

Your spouse can qualify for Medicare Part A at age 65 based on your work record if you are eligible for monthly Social Security benefits, even if you are only age 62-64, or if you are receiving Social Security disability benefits. Almost everyone in the U.S. can enroll in Part B at age 65.

### Enrolling in Medicare

When you enroll in Part A of Medicare, you also automatically enroll in Part B, unless you tell the Social Security Administration that you don't want it.

If you enroll in Part B at the earliest opportunity, you pay premiums of \$45.50 per month in 2000. These premiums are deducted from your Social Security benefits, if you get them. The monthly premiums are adjusted every January.

If you enroll late, or if you drop out and enroll again, you may have to pay higher premiums. You will pay 10% more for each full twelve months that you did not participate when you were eligible. You don't include any months when you weren't enrolled in Part B while covered by an employer-sponsored group insurance plan based on your or your spouse's current employment.

### Coordination of Benefits

If you are eligible for Medicare at age 65 or older and are working for an employer with 20 or more employees, you are entitled to the same employer-sponsored healthcare benefits offered to younger employees. If you have such coverage and are working, Medicare is the "secondary payer," paying only for some charges not covered by your employer-provided plan. These rules apply to your spouse at age 65 or older if you are working for such an employer, regardless of your age.

These rules also apply to any disabled Medicare beneficiary (under age 65) who is covered by an employer-provided healthcare plan as a currently working employee or as a family member of an employee. However, this applies only if an employer with 100 or more employees sponsors the plan. Special rules apply to persons with end-stage renal disease.

Medicare is also the secondary payer if medical costs can be paid under any liability policy, such as auto insurance.

### When It's Available

Medicare is available at the beginning of the month you turn 65, whether you are retired or still working. This age is not scheduled to rise, even though the full retirement age for Social Security gradually rises from 65 to 67. Medicare



We thank OSA for the wine!!





