

RETIREE LINE

SPRING /SUMMER 2022



Annual Reunion Luncheon

Wed., Sept. 14 at the *FireKeepers Casino Hotel*

JOIN your fellow Forerunner Chapters for a unique experience at the Firekeepers Casino Hotel for lunch in the “Mbish Ballroom D” and an afternoon of possibilities!

FireKeepers Casino Hotel located at **11177 Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek (I-94 to Exit 104).**

- 29 miles east of Kalamazoo
- 45 miles south of Lansing
- 70 miles west of Ann Arbor.



Parking in front of the hotel. The luncheon will be held just inside the hotel. The casino is a non-smoking environment.

About FireKeepers

After more than ten years of planning, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Pottawatomie opened the doors of FireKeepers Casino in August of 2009. With gaming tables and 2,900 slot machines.

After lunch, we will conclude with our Forerunners meeting and 2022 Forerunner Scholarship Awards presentation. As we end our meeting, the FireKeepers Casino Hotel will give each participant a \$10 voucher to do a little gambling.

Hopefully, you will find your day will be filled with making connections with old and new friends and possibly winning a jackpot! **Good luck to ALL!**

Not a Gambler?

For those who don't gamble, comedy magician John Dudley will perform. John is a magical entertainer for the young and the young at heart. John's performance holds the audience



in wonder from the opening tricks to the grand finale. His show has thrilled audiences at festivals, company picnics, libraries, school assemblies and county fairs throughout the Midwest. johndudleymagician.com.

Plated Lunch Menu

Herb roasted breast of chicken, firekeepers signature salad, mashed potatoes, vegetable, house-baked rolls, dessert, and beverages. The cost of lunch is \$30 per person.

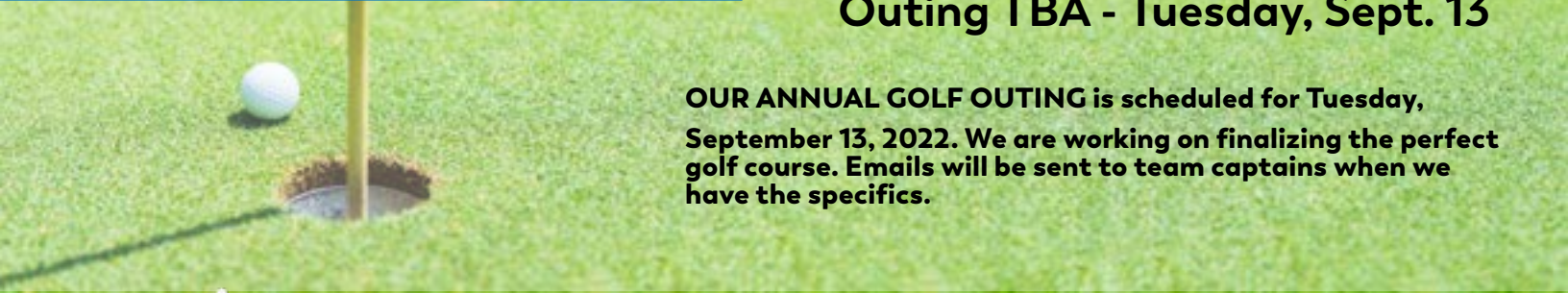
Look for more information and registration forms in our July Forerunner Newsletter.

Attractions in the Marshall Area

- American Museum of Magic 107 E. Michigan Avenue
- Honolulu House Museum 107 N. Kalamazoo Avenue
- Dark Horse Brewing Company 511 S. Kalamazoo Avenue
- Schuler's Restaurant 115 S. Eagle Street
- Marshall Postal Museum 202 E. Michigan Avenue



2022 Forerunners Annual Golf Outing TBA - Tuesday, Sept. 13



OUR ANNUAL GOLF OUTING is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022. We are working on finalizing the perfect golf course. Emails will be sent to team captains when we have the specifics.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have a change of address or email, contact Helen Riendeau at helen1Oriendeau@gmail.com.

Remember to also notify **Fidelity Benefits** at **800-260-4015** of any contact info changes.

SCHOLARSHIPS - Available to High School Seniors

THE Forerunners, an association of retirees from CMS-affiliated companies, has established a scholarship award for qualified graduating high school seniors. The award can be used for tuition, books, fees and educational expenses.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Children/legal dependents (grandchildren, step-children, step-grandchildren of Forerunners members).
- Applicant needs to be a graduating high school senior with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above and planning to follow a full-time first-year student program at a college, university, post-secondary or trade school.

- Only one scholarship is awarded per year per sponsoring Forerunner member. Forerunners membership dues payment must be current.

- \$1,000 Scholarship from the Forerunners Building for the Future

In addition, the Forerunners will also be offering three \$800 Scholarships in 2022. Forerunners scholarships are made possible through membership dues contributions and donations from Forerunners members.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

The recipients will be selected and notified in late July or early August, with the awards presented at the Forerunners Annual Meeting in September.

We will be awarding six scholarships in 2022.

- \$1,000 Scholarship from Richmond Brothers Investment Advisors in Jackson.
- \$1,000 Scholarship from Flynn Wealth Partners of East Lansing

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Applications are available from your local chapter presidents, the Forerunners Office in Jackson or from the Consumer Energy retiree website at: consumersenergy.com/retiree.

Completed applications along with required attachments must be postmarked no later than June 15, 2022 to be considered in this year's drawing.



RETIREE WEBSITE

Website Update: Many of our retirees noticed delayed updates to the retiree website. We have been working with the company and should see the problems resolved in the coming months. Thank you for being so interested in our retirees.

Forerunner Chapters News

JACKSONIANS

Joann Davis report
jedavis22@gmail.com

Congratulations to Jacksonian member Herb Elfring who is celebrating his 100th birthday. Vista Grande Villa held an event on February 24 honoring Mr. Elfring. Thank you to Leslie Youngdahl and Carolyn Bloodworth from Consumers Energy and Vista Grand Villa's Stacey Olson for organizing this event.



From left to right: Damien Wetzel, Bill Krieger, Herb Elfring, Kris Weiss, Stacey Olson and Garrick Rochow

Herb, a World War II Veteran survivor of Pearl Harbor, was honored with a commemorative challenge coin from CEO Garrick Rochow, along with Bill Krieger, Kris Weiss, Damien Wetzel from the Consumers Veterans Advisory Panel.

Check out Bill Krieger's March podcast "Me You Us" at [Force4Michigan.com](https://www.force4michigan.com) to listen to Bill Krieger's interview with Herb.

Thank you, Herb, for your service to our country and company.

JACKSONIANS

Second Annual Wine Tasting Event held at Chateau Aeronautique Winery in the Irish Hills on March 15. Thirty-four participants were guided through seven semi-sweet wine tastings and had cheese and crackers that perfectly paired with the wines presented.

METRO REGION PIONEERS

Cheryl Adams reports -
cladams71@yahoo.com

The Metro Pioneers Club held its Holiday luncheon on Dec. 14 at the beautiful Gazebo Banquet Center with about 50 members attending. I chose this year's charity after a visit with two Metro Region retirees, Bonnie and Dick Pytlak of Sanford, who shared their direct experiences after the Midland dams broke in May of 2020. During research, we learned the Consumers Energy Foundation had provided \$90,000 in aid to the American Red Cross.

As a result, our club chose to sponsor our first fundraiser to support The American Red Cross Disaster Relief Services for our local communities. As President of the club, I couldn't be prouder of our members, as we collectively raised \$847, which I presented to our excellent Red Cross speaker: Tami Duquette, at the luncheon. Luncheon schedules for 2022 are June 14, with speaker Carolyn Bloodworth, and Sept. 13 with Kendra Grob and Angela Bodell from CMS retirement and health benefits center.



Tami Duquette and Cheryl Adams

NORTHWESTERS

Eileen Girard reports -
megirard@aol.com

Northwesters are invited to attend four luncheon meetings held each year.

The meeting dates for the remainder of 2022 are May 26, Aug. 25 and Oct. 13. Luncheons are held at the Traverse City Elks Club at the corner of Bay and Division. The group also met in January. We try to have a program after each lunch.

SOUTHEASTERNERS CHAPTER

Linda Homolka reports
lhomolka@buckeye-express.com

Any CMS retiree (with spouses or friends) are invited to join us the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Monroe Grill in Monroe, MI.

We are primarily a social group, but give to charity each holiday season. We raise these funds through a 50/50 raffle each meeting and a collection or raffle at Christmas.

This year, we collected and donated 11 coats to the Oaks of Righteousness, a homeless shelter in Monroe. We were also able to donate \$175 to Heartbeat of Monroe, a private agency providing parenting and pregnancy support.

We have been fortunate over the years to have speakers from the CMS benefits division join us to share changes to healthcare insurance and pensions. We have also had speakers from local Senior Centers, encouraging participation in community efforts.

Even though the J.R. Whiting plant is gone, we enjoy maintaining relationships with old friends, discussing common interests, and telling old stories (usually funny ones).

Started in the early '90s, by C.J. Schwartz and Marilyn McClain, we hope local retirees will join our vibrant group.

WONDER WATTS CHAPTER

Lenord Bobick reports-
ljbobick@charter.net

Meetings are being held at the Bay City Service Center. Starting at 10 a.m. The meetings dates are May 17 and Sept. 7.

2021 Annual Golf Outing Hankerd Hills Golf Club



Photos by: **Joann Davis**

Women's Team winners – Julie Miller, Diane Moyer, Nora Brzezinski, and Kathy Gabriel

Mixed Team Winners – Kay and Doug Drogosch and Ellen & Doug Wissmueller

Men's Team Winners First place – Denny Dapra, Bruce Deverman, Lynn Frederick and Ted Sanger

Men's Team Winners Second place – Tim Stiles, Chuck Moyer, Tim Ruffin, and Shel Marshewka

Hankerd Hills golf course in Pleasant Lake, near Jackson, hosted 28 teams for a fun-filled day of golf and socialization. All enjoyed the buffet awards dinner afterward in the clubhouse! Thank you to Kathy Gabriel and her team and all who worked to make this event possible. We are looking forward to Sept. 13!

2021 Annual Reunion Luncheon & Riverboat Cruise

More than 130 enjoyed a private cruise down the Cass River on the Bavarian Belle, ending with the famous "chicken dinner" at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. We started our luncheon with Herb Elfring, a World War II Pearl Harbor Veteran leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Scholarship awards were handed out to our 2021 winners.



2021 Forerunners Scholarship Winners

FROM 24 applications, five scholarships were awarded. The winners were:

- Neil Jacobsen, the grandson of Jim Campbell, received the Richmond Brothers Investment Advisors \$1,000 scholarship.
- Xavier Paul, the grandson of Nancy Paul, received the Flynn Wealth Partners \$1,000 scholarship.
- Sarah Lathrop, the granddaughter of David Lathrop, received the Forerunners "Building for the Future" \$1,000 scholarship.
- Ashley Patterson, the granddaughter of Robert Gluszewski, received the first Forerunners \$800 scholarship.
- Emma Tipping, granddaughter of Linda and Tony Homolka, received the second Forerunners \$800 scholarship.

Congratulations to all!



Helen Riendeau presented David Lathrop



Bill Flynn of Flynn Wealth Advisors presented Nancy Paul and Helen Riendeau



Helen Riendeau presented Neil Jacobsen



Linda & Tony Homolka

FORERUNNERS MEMBERSHIP DUES 2022

The Forerunners are again collecting dues from all Chapters except Jacksonians, who collect for us. An email notification was sent to all members with emails recorded. This notice is for all others and those who have not yet responded to the email notice. Your local Chapter will collect their dues from you directly. Your membership and dues payment are very important to us, and for only .83 cents a month, you are a member of our special organization. Renew your membership and keep in touch with old friends and colleagues by sending your \$10.00 payment today. Most Chapters are resuming regular meetings for you to attend.

RETIREE NAME (Print) _____

SPOUSE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

2022 Membership Dues (\$10.00) _____

2023 Membership Dues (\$10.00) _____

(optional pay ahead)

Scholarship Donation (Optional) _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make your dues payable to: Forerunners and mail your completed form and check to:
Forerunners, 1945 W. Parnall Rd. , P21-505, Jackson, MI 49201

Happy Retirement!

Complete Listing on our website.

Consumersenergy.com/Retiree

JANUARY 2022

Ansorge, William M., Lakeann
Connors, Jeffrey L., Coldwater
Farnum, Russell C., Highland
Hunley, Stanley, Okemos
Johnson, Kenneth H., Clinton Twp
Lewandowski, Thomas J., Saginaw
Lopez, Anthony J., Riley Twp
Lorenz, Curtis J., Whitehall
Moyer, Carl J., Allegan
Racovites, Bobby P., Trenton
Sneller, Scott C., Nunica
Welborne, Raphael P., Detroit

DECEMBER 2021

Barker, Donald E., Cadillac
Bartley, Daniel L., Caro
Bryant, Anthony A., Flint
Colston, George, Mt Morris
Griffin, Patrick R., Mason
Herrera, Stanley, Marshall
Huerter, Timothy J., Kentwood
Lovely, Todd M., Midland
Pierce, Michella L., Ooltewah Tn
Ralph, Randall P., East China
Red, Leo P., Clarkston

Rentenback, Martin J., Washington Twp
Ritchie, Heather A., Jackson
Rose, Joshua D., Jackson
Toskey, Jacob B., Brooklyn
Van Huis, Wayne D., Mears
White, Holly G., Bay City
Wilhelm, James W., Petosky
Williamson, Thomas W., Lapeer

NOVEMBER 2021

Armstrong, Robert E., Interlochen
Ayers, Marilou K., Laingsburg
Baudoux, Cynthia L., Saginaw
Bierlein, Karen L., Vassar
Boyle, Richard A., Delton
Butler, David C., Rapid City
Demaria, Gwenn T., Clinton Twp
Egerer, Kevin J., Presque Isle
Ferkowicz, Mark E., Marion
Grieve, Dawn M., Saginaw
Hartley, Holly A., Southfield
James, Perry, Flint
Klifman, Randy L., Ludington
Klotz, Stephen E., Bellaire
Lane, Beverly, Farmington Hills
Levandowski, Christine E., Elwell
Lutz, Dennis M., Allendale
Martin, Linda M., Alma

Millard, Harmon M., Lapeer
Owens, Minerva, Auburn Hills
Rosalez, Javier, Alma
Solak, Rodney L., Traverse City
Wiebenga, Dale S., Grand Haven
Wysocki, Leon P., Walker
Zambon, John R., Holt

OCTOBER 2021

Anderson, Christopher W., Sparta
Brandt, Steven C., Flint
Dutcher, Melissa A., Shepherd
Evans, Scott A., Plainwell
Farver, Scott L., Oak Park
Gaiser, Daniel J., West Olive
Mcelhone, James, Jackson
Parsons, Russell D., Bay City
Pascoe, Renee M., Boon
Reder, Roger P., Kawkawlin
Ripke, Rebecca J., Fife Lake
Sampson, Timothy L., Bay City
Schuette, Dean W., Horton
Sierminski, Richard J., Jackson
Sokolowski, Greg A., Irons
Walentovic, David M., Birch Run
Wilhelm, Scott R., Midland
Williamson, Barbara A., Saginaw

IN MEMORIAM

Complete Listing on our website.

Consumersenergy.com/Retiree

JANUARY 2022

Bahr, Lois V., Manistee
Bailey, Lorence D., Galesburg
Balcom, Tim W., Hesperia
Bordeaux, Judith J., Flint
Boza, Nancy J., Romeo
Chamberlain, Janet D., Jackson
Cobb, Helen J., Jackson
Condy, Frances G., Owosso
Conran, Mildred M., Kentwood
Detmer, Buddy L., Prudenville
Doorlag, Harm, Kalamazoo
Dungey, Bertha R., Flint
Ferrer, Anastacio A., Louisville
Garberson, Majel M., Alma
Hatch, Verne, Bay City
Jacobs, Raymond H., Midland
Kaiser, Leon E., Kingsley
Kandt, Floyd A., Mt Clemens
Lamont, Robert L., Bay City
Miller, Robert D., Jackson
Mudge, Steven L., Pleasant Lake
Rasmussen, Thomas J., Fruitport
Sarlo, Barbara M., Jackson
Straus, Betty J., Flushing
Sudhoff, Virginia R., Saginaw
Taylor, Annette I., Lansing

DECEMBER 2021

Atkins, Carol J., Grand Rapids
Baber, Helen R., Flint
Billingsley, Gerald W., Spring Lake
Bramer, William J., Irons
Calvin, Patricia A., Monroe
Churchill, Dorothy L., Jackson
Drain, Robert O., Jackson
Dunlap, Gerald K., Marshall
Fater, Maxine D., Jackson
Fore, Kenneth R., Jenison
Gee, Orville E., Muskegon

Gryder, Barbara E., Monroe
Gubancsik, John J., Roscommon
Haught, Charles S., Lapeer
Ingell, Elizabeth W., Haslett
Keelor, Jeffrey P., Laveen
Kocis, Andrew S., Yale
Kraft, Rita E., Sterling Hts
Leister, Thomas H., Leslie
Lightfoot, Rosemary, Lake
Marz, Terence J., Jackson
Mason, Wendell E., Punta Gorda
Mcelroy, John R., Burton
Miller, Charlie L., Flint
Ouellette, Robert R., Addison
Perry, Donna J., Erie
Putman, Robbie E., Waterford
Rooksberry, Harold E., Buckley
Sarafin, Norbert D., Jackson
Siefert, Albert J., Bay City
Smith, Robert R., Mt Clemens
Smith, William J., Owosso
Smith li, Donald J., Jackson
Stroman, Wayne J., Tomball
Wilcox, Jeanne W., De Witt

NOVEMBER 2021

Archambeau, Bonnie L., Jackson
Bauchan, Roy G., Wyoming
Bex, Edna L., Waterford
Brown, Carola J., Alma
Brownell, Jeffrey D., Freeport
Bruey, Alfred J., Ann Arbor
Burk, Robert L., Frankenmuth
Childress, Anna G., Jackson
Collins, Robert C., Fort Gratiot
Cooper, Nancy M., Mason
Cooper, Thomas H., Mason
Denstedt, Marie E., Otto, NC
Dondzila, Jeri S., Grand Rapids
Duchaine, Gloria H., Bay City



Elenbaas, Phyllis M., Grovetown, Ga
Fletcher, George A., Hamilton
Fuller, Barton L., Ionia
Geisenhaver, Kurt A., Otisville
Gillespie, Eather M., Jackson
Gotham, Helen N., Saginaw
Hasse, Richard L., Goodrich
Hawkins, Carmen E., National City
Hays, William E., Hudsonville
Hopton, Dorothy M., Flint
Howell, Joyce A., Sidney
Kaliman, George M., Jackson
Korson, Franklin D., Macomb Twp
Lesatz, Larry S., East Tawas
Liederman, Kenneth C., Roseville
Martinson, Helen M., Marion
May, David L., Ludington
Mckinney, Theresa L., Jackson
Nowosad, Jack E., Fort Gratiot
Priest, Robert L., St Louis
Prouty, Dorothy J., Traverse City
Quinn, Carolyn J., Ferndale
Rogers, Odis E., Paw Paw
Schrimer, Gary G., East Leroy
Simpson, Doris M., Sarasota, Fl
Spaly, Marcia D., Flint
Thatcher, Marilyn B., Temperance
Wallace, Robert H., Lansing
Winkler, Robert H., Kalamazoo
Workman, Robert E., Jenison
Wyman, Phyllis M., Plymouth
Zielinski, Lynelle K., Pinconning



FORERUNNERS OFFICERS

President: Kathy Gabriel – kathleengabrier@att.net – 517-783-5072
Vice President: Vonda Belanger – vondaleigh@gmail.com – 248-761-2470
Secretary: Helen Riendeau – helen1Oriendeau@gmail.com – 517-339-3528
Treasurer: Kathy Gabriel – kathleengabrier@att.net – 517-783-5072
Past President: Vonda Belanger – vondaleigh@gmail.com – 248-761-2470
Scholarship Co-Chairs: Rhoda Tinkham – rmtinkham@gmail.com – 517-628-9740 and
Helen Riendeau – helen1Oriendeau@gmail.com – 517-339-3528
Member at Large: AnnMarie Frohm – irishlady01@comcast.net – 517-783-4996
Member at Large IT Advisor: Nora Brzezinski – nora.brzezinski@cmsenergy.com – 517-812-8847
Member at Large: Joann Davis – jedavis22@gmail.com – 517-740-0293

FORERUNNERS CHAPTERS

Please email or call the appropriate chapter president if you want to be on the mailing list for club events.

Adrian – **Adrianites** – Alan Morgenthaler – ajmorgenthaler1@comcast.net – 517-265-7539
Alma – **Grey Power** – Bob Divelbiss – oldbobd2@gmail.com – 989-833-2403
Arizona – **Sun Runners** – John Ralph – jralph4@cox.net – 623-935-9772
Battle Creek – **Kilowatt Kreekers** – Margaret Skinner/Moody – mmoody315@yahoo.com – 269-967-2263
Flint & Lapeer – **Easterners** – Tom Bollman – tjbollman@gmail.com – 810-444-9054
Grand Rapids & Greenville – **Livewires** – Cheryl Ricketson – clrocket@comcast.net – 616-878-5284
Jackson – **Jacksonians** – Bob Gilmore – rtgilmore5924@comcast.net – 517-748-1857
Kalamazoo & Hastings – **Southwest Energy Stars** – Vacant
Lansing – **Capitaliers** – Sue Garland – flavoredcoffee@att.net – 517-543-9488
Livonia & Howell – **Blue Flames** – Sue Breckenridge – RandSBreck@wowway.com – 734-453-2251
Monroe County – **Southeasters** – Harry Redford – hredford@charter.net – 734-652-6635
Muskegon **Lakesiders** – Vacant
Macomb, Royal Oak & Pontiac – **Metro Region Pioneers** – Cheryl Adams – cladams71@yahoo.com
– 248-978-7438
Saginaw, Bay City & Midland – **Wonder Watts** – Len Bobick – ljbobick@charter.net – 989-893-2418
Traverse City – **Northwesters** – Robert Gluszewski – rpglu@charter.net – 231-313-8334

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Aetna – Medical: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, <http://aetna.com>; 800-654-7248
Express Scripts Medco: Mail Order Prescriptions: <https://express-scripts.com>; 800-875-3147
Fidelity: Benefits, ALL Address Changes: 8:30 a.m.–midnight, Monday – Friday (except New York Stock Exchange holidays), <http://netbenefits.fidelity.com>; 800-260-4015
Consumers Energy Employee People & Culture (HR): 517-788-2275 (Option 3)
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