

An Unusual Commitment to Continue Serving

Recently I spoke with a retiree who has decided to work in a dark county to raise up a new church. Interestingly it is in a state and conference in which he has never worked. As I understand it he considered the whole nation. Finally, he was led to a small town in Mississippi and informed the Conference president of his desire to serve.

Naturally I was looking for a connection. Was it near his place of birth? No. Was it near the birthplace of his parents or other forebears? No. Was his wife from there or any of her relatives? No.

Turns out that town fit the description of a place the Lord was leading him to go. He seemed interested in nothing else.

I did not ask him if he was to receive a stipend or anything because I wanted to preserve the impression I had that he just wanted to work spreading the Gospel and establishing new work. He is strong and looks fit for the challenge. Perhaps it is a plan of action and commitment other recipients in the Regional Conference Retirement Plan community would like to consider. The liberal benefits of our Plan put our retirees in a position of sustained service without being overly concerned about compensation. I pray that there are others out there just looking for a place to grow the work at a leisurely pace.

I am withholding the name and other information from this publication to avoid embarrassing him. If you want to contact him about how he is going about doing this honorable deed you may contact me and I will ask permission to give his information. Until then let us just pray for the success of this worthy mission.

Joseph W. McCoy
Executive Director



News and Views

By the Numbers:

- 1,604 —Number of employees who are eligible to qualify for benefits
- 181 —Number currently receiving benefits
- 7 —New applications have been pre-approved by the Screening Committee
- 45 —Current Percentage of full-funding achieved
- \$1.4 —Annual amount contributed by Regional Conferences to the North American Division for Retired/Vested Workers

Regional Conference Retirees

As of now, we have a total of **181** blessed retirees on the Regional Conference Retirement Plan.

We are pleased to introduce the NEWEST retirees added in the 3rd quarter of 2007:

1 - Shelton Stanley - Maintenance/Grounds	Allegheny East	6.6 years
2 - Florence Richards - Teacher	Northeastern	19.10 years
3 - Recilla Forbes - Teacher	Northeastern	28.6 years
4 - Margery Morgan - Principal	Allegheny East	35.10 years
5 - Ernest Young - Pastor	South Central	1.4 years
6 - Earl Davis, Sr. - Teacher	Southeastern	21.1 years
7 - Roosevelt Williams - Pastor	Central States	11.7 years

(Years of service correction for Yvonne Moore - Northeastern. We listed 24.8 and it is 28.1)

Retirees recently departed:

Doctor J. Smith - Vails Gate, New York
Harold L. Cleveland, Sr. - Madison, Alabama
Milton M. Young - Harvest, Alabama



The Education Summit— Interesting ideas about the Retirement Fund

The Regional Conferences have just concluded a Summit on Education. The Executive Committees of all nine conferences were invited and tasked to receive the reports and recommendations from a distinguished group of Adventist Educators. The group is known as Regional Education Superintendents Association (RESA). Their desire was to have the Executive Committees of the Conferences look for ways to improve Christian Adventist Education by integrating and implementing their recommendations into the Conference's philosophy and practice.

One idea of interest from RESA was that we delay fully funding the Retirement Plan and use some of the money from that source to support various Christian Education programs. Full-funding means that we have in hand all the dollars needed to fund all the promises we have made to our employees. We are almost halfway there in just seven years. Another suggestion was that once we are fully funded that the Conferences use the money once used for funding the Retirement Plan solely for funding Adventist Education.

Reactions to those suggestions were mixed in my unscientific study. But ringing in my ears and etched in the photo section of my brain are the words and face of one retiree who rushed up to me

after the meeting was finished. Her exact words were "Don't you let them mess with my retirement money!"

Christian Adventist Education is important to us all, especially those of us who have grown up and benefited from the Church School System. However, we cannot afford to tamper with the funding plan currently in place. That may not be good news to those who see the Retirement Plan resources as an answer to their hopes and dreams for education.

The best idea that emerged from the discussion was that Regional Conferences pool their human and financial resources for Christian Education **now** in the same way as they have pooled them for the Retirement Plan. Creation of such a "System of Education" would favorably position us to take advantage of the economy of scale for all our schools. The other good news is that when fully funded the use of those same retirement dollars will take us much farther and faster than any plan that promotes breaking off small pieces of the fund before we reach that worthy goal.

With that in mind, if we were to follow the NAD Regional Capital Reversion Model that currently divides \$1 million among three conferences annually, just think of what that same model will do for three conferences who divide \$10 or \$15 million annually when we are fully funded.

The operative words for reaching that pinnacle are Faithfulness and Patience.

The Annual Pastoral/Evangelism Council

The dates are
December 2-5, 2007

Keynote Sermon
Sunday, December 2, 2007 - 8:30 p.m.
Dr. Charles Adams
Pastor,
Hartford Memorial Baptist Church
Detroit, Michigan

Morning Devotional Speakers
Monday - Furham Fordham
Tuesday - Carlton Byrd
Wednesday - Craig Newborn

Christmas

I was in a store a few days ago and was astonished to hear Christmas music. Following my ears and eyes I saw a full-blown Holiday section complete with all the trimmings. I could not believe what I heard and saw because it was only October 11th. Surely by the time we get to Christmas day more than two months down the road from here Jesus shall have almost been “Commercialized” and Saled” completely out of Christmas. However, it did remind me that the next issue of the Passport does not come out until after that wonderful holiday.

Having grown up Adventist you can be sure I have heard all the arguments pro and con on this subject and know the risk for weakening the “roof” over my head in that discussion. But I’ll take the risk and wish you a Merry Christmas. I pray that the Jesus in it all will prevail and soar far above the numbing din of unrelenting pursuits for profits and margins and that in our homes He will truly be The Reason for the Season.



ARM Regional Healthcare
P.O. Box 10804
Silver Spring, Maryland 20914



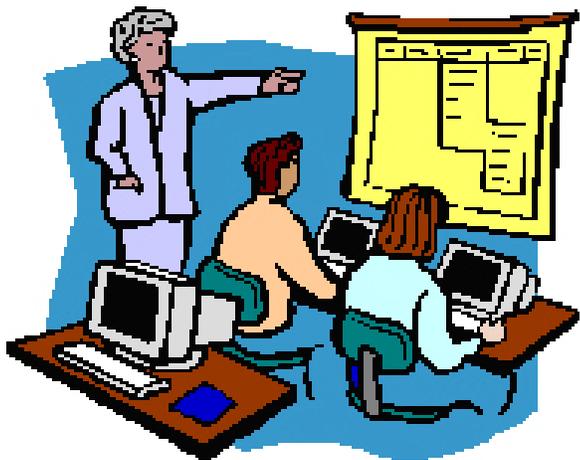
This card will assist you in purchasing prescriptions from your local pharmacy. We recommend that you ask your doctor for two prescriptions when you need prescriptions. Get one for 30 days and one for 90 days. Request your local pharmacy to fill the 30-day prescription. Then send the 90-day prescription to:

Medco Health Services of Ohio
P.O. Box 182050
Columbus, OH 43218-2050
(800) 841-5396

You save on the 90-day prescription through the mail order house. A generic prescription will cost \$37 for 90 days. If you do not have the supplemental healthcare booklet, please contact us to mail you one. **Watch for price increase in prescriptions.**

Conference Executive Secretary's and Retirement Personnel Continuing Education Seminar

On October 11-12 the Regional Conference Retirement Plan Office conducted a Continuing Education seminar for Conference Executive Secretary's and their office support personnel. The meeting was held at the Riverside Chapel SDA Church Fellowship Hall in Nashville,



Tennessee. All nine conferences were represented and enthusiastically received the information shared by the Retirement Office, Mutual of America, our vendor and each other.

The objective was "Reciprocal Education" to better serve our employees. Under that banner the Retirement Office and personnel from the conferences shared and refined the complete process initiated by a request for retirement benefits from employees in our Conferences. In other words we all increased our knowledge base and information flowed in both directions. It was suggested that we hold these meetings annually for the foreseeable future.

Laugh Out Loud (LOL)

"Alphabets for 50 and Above"

A is for apple, and B is for boat,
That used to be right, but now it won't float!
Age before beauty is what we once said,
But let's be a bit more realistic instead.
Now...

The Alphabet

A is for arthritis;
B is for the bad back,
C is the chest pains,
perhaps car-d-iac?
D is for dental decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!
F is for fissures and fluid retention,
G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.
H is high blood pressure—I'd rather it be low,
I is for incisions with scars you can show.
J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when they bend.
L is for libido, what happened to sex?
M is for memory, I forget what comes next.
N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low,
O is for osteo, the bones that don't grow!
P is for prescriptions, I have quite a few,
just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!
Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?
R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.
S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,
T is for Tinnitus; there's bells in my ears!
U is for urinary; big troubles with flow,
V is for vertigo, that's "dizzy," you know.
W is for worry, NOW what's going 'round?
X is for X-ray, and what might be found.
Y is another year I'm left here behind,
Z is for zest that I still have — in my mind.

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's
deployed, and I am keeping twenty-six
doctors fully employed!!!



For
More
Info
Contact:



Regional Conference Retirement Plan
7000 Adventist Blvd—Huntsville, Alabama 35896—www.regionalministry.org
Phone (256) 830-5002—FAX (256) 830-5078

The Retirement Office wishes for you and your family a happy and prosperous 2007. Our prayers continue for health and happiness in Christ for all retirees who have fought a good fight and are looking for the soon coming of Christ our Lord in great glory.