



COPRA CHRONICLE

Issued by and for the City of Phoenix Retirees Association
Your advocate in pension and insurance matters

December 2021

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR STRENGTH

Issue 9

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Please update us when you change your address, email and or phone number. You can send it to:
lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com



"Membership is our Strength" MEMBERSHIP

Membership for COPRA is \$12 per year or \$50.00 for 5 years. If you have changed your address, email address or phone number, or have any questions about dues payments, please contact Linda Henderson.

Linda can be reached by: telephone at 623-693-9955, or by email at lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com

Mail payments to:
COPRA
PO Box 2464
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340

PayPal Payments:
You can send in dues via PayPal. Use our email address phoenixcopra@gmail.com from your account.

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 10

Our annual General Membership Meeting will be held virtually again this year due to the ongoing pandemic. The meeting will be held on **December 10th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** We normally would have the meeting in conjunction with our holiday luncheon, and we are disappointed to not be able to accommodate the luncheon again this year.

We will be hosting the General Membership Meeting on Zoom, a video and audio platform for our members to connect to the meeting. To ensure the meeting is as secure as possible, we are asking members to please pre-register for the meeting by December 7. If you have a computer and email, please send your request to: coprapresident@gmail.com with "General Membership Meeting Registration" in the subject line. We will follow-up with a link to the meeting. Computer users will be able to choose a video or audio-only connection. If you do not use a computer, please contact COPRA President Rob Sweeney at 480-215-2215 and we will get you an audio-only connection.

We have invited special guests to provide informative presentations. **Most importantly**, we will be voting for candidates for open Board seats. We have six candidates for the open seats. The candidate bios were included in the November Chronicle and their names are listed below.

Victoria Correll	Linda Henderson
Louis Matamoros	Gail Piceno
Tammy Ryan	Mary Jo Slunder

We also still need three volunteers to fill one-year terms to replace Board members who are vacating their terms. **Please consider serving!** This would give you an opportunity to "try it on" to see if it fits. We could really use your help.

We look forward to "seeing" you at the meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Laura Ross

Rob was generous enough to allow me to take his place and write this month's message. I wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye to you all. As of the new year, I will be stepping down from the COPRA Board. This is a big step for me because I have been a Board Member since I retired in 2005. Most of those years I filled either the Vice President or President office. I have also spent those years as your representative to the Health Care Task Force as I had done while an active City employee. It has come time to turn these responsibilities over to a newer, younger retiree. I want to thank you all for your confidence and support for these past 15 years. I also want to let you know that you will be in good hands with Tammy Ryan who will take over as the Health Care Chair and your representative to the Health Care Task Force.

The City continues to do their best to offer a sustainable health care option to Retirees and their eligible dependents, both Medicare and non-Medicare. There have been some significant changes to the non-Medicare offerings for 2022. Hopefully, if interested in these options, you were able to take advantage of City sponsored information to choose your plan and meet the City enrollment deadline. The City of Phoenix 2022 Benefits Guide for Retirees sent to all Retirees is a valuable guide for all you need to know about Retiree Benefits. Please be sure to keep your copy in a safe place so you have it as a reference throughout the year. Medicare eligible Retirees still have time to make their enrollment decisions prior to the December 7th deadline.

We've all had to meet a lot of new challenges since the Pandemic became a part of our lives. It has taught us to face new situations and learn the best way to deal with them. While not to be wished for, it has kept us on our toes and helped us learn new ways to keep ourselves and our families safe. Experts say that one way to stay young is to learn new things so I guess we all had the opportunity to learn new things and thereby extend our youth. As I leave the COPRA Board to find new challenges of my own, I wish you all the best in continuing to learn new things, but hope that you get to choose for yourself what those new things will be. My best wishes to you all as I move to the audience seats instead of the leadership chair. Live long and prosper!

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **Copra Chronicle**

2. Issue Frequency: **Monthly**

3. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **10/01/2021**

4. Issue Frequency: **9**

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **9**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$9.00**

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, state, county, and ZIP+4®):
**6206 E. Camel Cove
 Scottsdale AZ 85264**

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
**11523 W. Cynrus Dr
 Avondale, AZ 85392**

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
**Publisher (Name and complete mailing address):
 City of Phoenix Retirees Association (COPRA)
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 Avondale, AZ 85392**
**Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
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 6206 E. Camel Cove
 Scottsdale, AZ 85264**
**Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
 Mary Jo Blumner
 P.O. Box 2484
 Littlefield Park, AZ 85340**

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address):
**Full Name: City of Phoenix Retirees Association
 Complete Mailing Address: 11523 W. Cynrus Dr, Avondale AZ 85392**

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (See instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9001 **PRIVACY NOTICE:** See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: **Copra Chronicle**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **10/01/2021**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2000	1462
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	231	228
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mail-Industry Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS® (Exp. First-Class Mail®)	1674	1234
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS		
b. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		3905	2924
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
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(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		3905	2924
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page 4))		95	
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		4000	2924
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%

*If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

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16. Statement of Ownership

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies			
		3905	0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)			
		3905	2924
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)			
		3905	2924
d. Percent Paid (16b divided by 16c times 100)			
		100%	100%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

The publication is a general publication; publication of this statement is required. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Laura Matamoros**, Treasurer

Date: **10/01/2021**

I certify that the information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including penalties).

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 3 of 4) **PRIVACY NOTICE:** See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7

The City's open enrollment period is over for this year. But as a Medicare eligible retiree, you can still change your Medicare plans until December 7th. Don't hesitate to shop around, although if you have pre-existing conditions, it may be better for you to stick with what you have.

You can go to medicare.gov online to search for either Medicare Advantage plans or Medicare Supplement (Medi-gap) plans. With a supplement plan, you may also want to search for an additional plan for drug coverage.

If you don't want to do the search yourself, there are many companies available that will help you determine if the Medicare plan you have is still the right one for you. These companies will "shop" the market to find a plan for you. You can also find local insurance brokers who will work with you to find a plan that fits. You can also contact each insurance company individually to speak with a representative or search online to get specific information about their plans.

UNIQUE PLACES TO SHOP FOR THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

The Holidays are upon us! This means purchasing thoughtful gifts for our loved ones is top of mind. You probably know that the Friday after Thanksgiving, called Black Friday, marks the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season. But did you know that the Saturday following Thanksgiving is called Small Business Saturday?

Small business Saturday is an effort to inspire shoppers to "shop small." In 2011, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution supporting Small Business Saturday.

Even though you are receiving this issue of the *Chronicle* after these special days, it is still important to support small businesses. With the bottleneck at our ports, it may be even more important than ever to shop small, as these small businesses are based in local communities.

Small businesses make up over 99% of companies in this country. Did you know that? I didn't! When you support a small business, you may be directly helping a family send their child to college or pay their mortgage. For every \$1 you spend at an independent, locally owned business, an average of 67¢ will stay in that community.

Please consider shopping at a local small business this year. It helps the retailer's family, and it helps the local economy.

There are many small businesses here in the Valley of the Sun. I'm sure you can find some that will fit your needs.

Source: <https://extramile.thehartford.com/lifestyle/unique-holiday-gift-ideas>

**"The Holiday Season is a perfect time
To reflect on our blessings
And seek out ways to make life better
For those around us."**

~Terri Marshall



NEW RETIREES (OCTOBER)

Jerri Allen	Transportation	Beth La Brutta-Dichiara	Fire Dept.
Ramon Angulo	Public Works	Mark Lawrence	Parks & Rec.
John Austin	Water Services	Edward Lebow	City Manager's Office
Peggy Bassett	Police Dept.	Darren Lomay	Phoenix Convention Center
Terry Bateman	Water Services	Jesus Lopez	Aviation
Jennifer Battaglia	Water Services	Robert Lugo	Public Works
Doris Berg	Public Works	Mary Luther	Police Dept.
Mark Berg	Water Services	Edwin Moon	Public Works
Emily Berumen	Parks & Rec.	Lorraine Mori	Police Dept.
Dorothy Blakley	Housing	Jesus Nandin	Water Services
Charles Bremer	Water Services	Elizabeth Parker	City Clerk
Robin Brown	Municipal Court	Charles Parrish	Public Works
Jody Bryant	Convention Center	Cynthia Pepin	Water Services
Terry Campbell	Parks & Rec.	Susan Pleger	Parks & Rec.
Richard Carrillo	Aviation	Eugene Ploskonka	Parks & Rec.
Gonzalo Cavazos	Water Services	Frank Ramirez	Public Works
Mark Cavazos	Water Services	Angela Rios	Information Tech. Serv.
Maria Chavez	Police Dept.	Thomas Rodriquez	Parks & Rec.
Patricia Contreras	Housing	Peggy Romero-Reyes	Housing
Rose D'Sa-Mayer	City Manager's Office	Jimmy Rubino	Housing
Margaret Davis	Information Tech. Serv.	Lonnie Rust	Information Tech. Serv.
Alison Farnsworth	Aviation	Melanie Ryan	Information Tech. Serv.
Anthony Gatica	Parks & Rec.	Timothy Singleton	Public Works
R Bobbie Gonzales	Retirement Board	Michael Smiley	Parks & Rec.
Kevin Grapes	Public Works	Allan Smolko	Transportation
Trina Harrison	Aviation	Roscoe Taylor	Aviation
Leon Hawley	Water Services	John Thomas	Water Services
Kathleen Hernandez	Housing	Richard Thompson	Public Works
Oscar Hernandez	Parks & Rec.	Carole Towles	Library
Sandra Hernandez	Charging	Dennis Verno	Police Dept.
Jose Jaquez	Aviation	James Wagner	Public Works
Carol Johnson	Planning and Dev Dept.	William Wlodkowski	Water Services
Roy Jones	Water Services	James Yancy	Aviation
Robert Kehoe	Aviation	Volley Yates	Aviation
William Keisler	Water Services	Sharon Zard	Aviation
		Edward Zuercher	City Manager's Office

Reminder!

Please remember to update us (COPRA to lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com) if you change your address, email, or phone number. We do not get updates from COPERS. Thank you!

YOUR E-MAIL IS YOUR ENTRY

As you all know, receiving the COPRA Chronicle by email significantly defrays the printing and postage costs for COPRA. An added benefit is that if there is any important information that COPRA wants to send you, we have your email address on file and can transmit to you in a timely fashion.

In order to encourage our COPRA members to receive the Chronicle by email, each month we will randomly select one member who receives their Chronicle by email and that member will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a grocery store (Fry's or Safeway).

The October winner is **Kelly Pignato. CONGRATULATIONS KELLY!**

If we already have your email address, you are automatically entered! If you do not receive the Chronicle by email, do so NOW! You can provide your email to Linda Henderson at lindajoyhenderson@gmail.com. She can also be reached by phone at (623) 693-9955.

Sign up now!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Name	Department	Date of Death
Roy Nourse	Planning & Development	07/11/2021
Kathleen Pickering	Law Department	07/26/2021
Leslie G. Geer		09/06/2021
Leonard Woolum	Fire Dept.	09/14/2021
Rebecca R. Martinez	Housing Dept.	10/06/2021
Larry P. Piper	Parks and Rec. Dept.	10/14/2021
Jane Walsh (Richard)	Fire Dept.	10/20/2021
Larry D. Bettis	Public Works Dept.	10/26/2021
Florence Fraser	Planning Dept.	10/28/2021
Beverly Cone	Budget & Research	10/29/2021
Cathy L. Sherman		10/29/2021
James R. Marking	Water Dept.	10/30/2021
Arthur V. Madrid	Human Resources Dept.	10/30/2021
N. Wayne Little (Erma)	Fire Dept.	10/31/2021
Douglas L. Wenthe	Parks and Rec. Dept.	11/03/2021
Raymond Mora	Public Works Dept.	11/06/2021
Josie Ruiz (Ralph)	Streets Department	11/10/2021

(Those on the list who are surviving spouses will have the retiree's name in parentheses after the deceased's name.)

NEW MEMBERS

Samantha Thompson	Water Services	Melanie Ryan	Information Tech. Services
Mary Beth Thompson	Aviation	Robert Hughes	Municipal Court
Williams Hughes	Fire Dept.		

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

- **December 1, 1941** – The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services, such as locating lost aircraft.
- **December 1, 1955** – The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back of the bus.
- **December 2, 1942** - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.
- **December 2, 1982** – The first permanent artificial heart was implanted at the University of Utah Medical Center. The patient, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.
- **December 6, 1865** – The 13th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery.
- **December 7, 1941** – The U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.
- **December 14, 1799** – George Washington died at Mount Vernon.
- **December 23, 1913** – The U.S. Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act establishing the Federal Reserve System to serve as the nation's central bank.

This is just a random sample of the historical events that happened in the month of December. You can find historical events for any month of the year at www.historyplace.com.

Source: www.historyplace.com

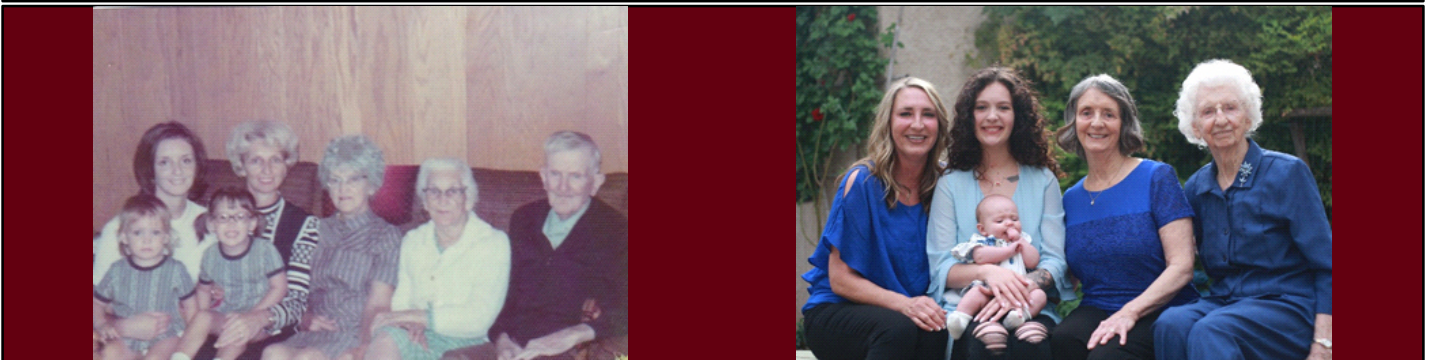
5 GENERATIONS OF A RETIREE

COPRA member Linda Miller retired from the Personnel Department (now known as the Human Resources Department), Personnel Records Section in 2005. She followed her mother, Irene Peterson, into Personnel Records. Irene retired in 1985, and on October 20th turned 96 years young. Irene still lives alone in Cottonwood, so in April of this year, Linda's daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter made a trip to Cottonwood from Texas to visit Irene.

There are now 5 generations of Peterson women! Back in 1972, Irene and Linda, along with Linda's daughter and granddaughter traveled to Ohio to celebrate Linda's great-grandparents' 73rd wedding anniversary. While there, a photo of the five generations was taken.

On the left, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Lloyd (both 94 years of age) are pictured with Opal Shaffer (67), Irene Peterson (47), Linda Giurlanda Miller (26), and Linda's daughters LeAnn (2) and Marie (5).

In the picture on the right are Irene Peterson, now age 95, Linda Miller, age 73, LeAnn Burrus, age 50, RyLee Moran, age 20, and Kalani Irene, age 3 months.



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Here are some holiday safety tips provided by the Phoenix Police Department.

Four tips to avoid package theft:

1. Have your packages delivered when someone is home or to your work.
2. Ask your neighbor to pick up delivered packages.
3. Track your package so you know when to expect your delivery.
4. Use security cameras.

What to do if your package is stolen:

1. File a police report.
2. File a claim with the delivery service.

Grinch-proof your holiday light displays:

1. Turn off the light display at night (bed-time).
2. Install security cameras.
3. Bring in valuable items at night.
4. Stay connected with your neighbors and neighborhood apps.

Safety tips when traveling away from home:

1. Get automatic timers for your lights.
2. Ask a trusted neighbor to watch your home, pick up your mail, and park in your driveway from time to time.

Holiday shopping safety tips:

1. Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.
2. Park in well-lit areas, and be sure to lock the car, close your windows, and hide all gifts and shopping bags in the trunk. If you have a SUV, cover the packages and bags with the cargo cover.
3. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

(Continued on page 7)

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 6)

4. Carry your purse close to your body and put your wallet in an inside pocket or front pants pocket.
5. Have your keys ready to enter your vehicle when you approach it. Use your "panic button" on your key fob if you become nervous or think you are being followed. Lock your doors immediately upon entering your vehicle.

Home safety tips:

1. Always use caution when answering your door for a stranger, but especially during the holiday season! Criminals often use disguises and pose as couriers during the holiday season.
2. The holidays are the season for giving but donate only to trusted charitable organizations. Always ask for identification; if you do not get a good feeling from the person, refuse to donate.

Watch out for scams:

1. Do not give or verify personal or financial information about you or anyone else over the phone to anyone you don't know personally.
2. Government officials will never call your home asking for payment.
3. Be wary of aggressive solicitors or panhandlers at your front door and NEVER invite them into your home.
4. Consider posting a "NO SOLICITING" sign that is visible to anyone approaching your door.



Disclaimer

All articles are for informational purposes and not intended to be a substitute for professional, legal, financial or medical advice. Consult an attorney or other professional what is best for your situation. COPRA expressly disclaims and denies liability for any decisions based on the information presented.

COPRA website.....	www.phoenixcopra.com
COPERS website.....	www.phoenix.gov/copers
COPMEA website.....	www.copmea.com
City Retirement Systems (COPERS).....	(602) 534-4400
Human Resources - Benefits Section	(602) 262-4777
COPMEA.....	(602) 262-6858

2021 COPRA BOARD

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Chronicle Article Deadline

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting articles for the Chronicle is the **20th day of the month** before you want the article to appear. Any member may submit material for publication, but the Editor determines what will appear in the final copy based on suitability and available space.

This is your Chronicle. Help us by submitting articles of general interest. Tell us about yourself, your family, a trip you've taken or an interesting hobby you have. Suggestions are always welcomed.

E-mail to: COPRAnewsletter@gmail.com

Or mail to: Mary Dysinger Franklin, 6208 E. Desert Cove Ave, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

DECEMBER COPRA CHRONICLE

Annual dues includes \$5.00 for the COPRA Chronicle
Dues are \$12.00 per year or \$50 for 5 years
COPRA Chronicle (**USPS No. 0016-924**) is published
Monthly except June, July and August
By City of Phoenix Retirees Association
PO Box 2464, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
Periodicals paid at Avondale AZ and
additional mailing offices

POSTMASTER
Please send address corrections to:
COPRA
PO Box 2464
Litchfield Park, AZ 85340



2021 MEMBERSHIP MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership meeting held

**Virtually - Please register by December 7
(See article on page 1)**

December 10, 2021 - Board Member Voting and special guests

Board meetings are held quarterly on the 2nd Thursday of the Month
Except for June, July and August.