

Reflections

Administrator's Update

Greetings and Happy New Year! We serve a marvelous God and I praise Him for all the blessings during 2021.

We're here to serve you

On July 1, 2021, the Adventist Retirement team returned to in-office work at our Columbia, Maryland, office and is ready to serve you Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. EST.

Even during economic and Covid uncertainties, I'm delighted to share that the eight plans we are responsible for are in good operating standing, well-positioned for growth and sustainability. Strategic planning and prudent management allow us to provide benefits to our retirees now and for years to come.

In 2021, the Adventist Retirement team served over 35,000 participants across all plans. As a result, we paid retirement benefits above \$169 million for over 16,000 retirees. These benefits include pension payments as

(continued)



Edwin G. Romero, MBA, is the administrator and CEO of the North American Division Retirement Plans. He is constantly finding ways Adventist Retirement can better serve you!

PAYROLL BULLETIN BOARD

*Checks /EFT
Released*

THIS MONTH:
February 25

NEXT MONTH:
March 25

*“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.”
(Philippians 4:6-7).*

well as healthcare subsidies. In addition, we diligently work with our healthcare record keeper, Aon Retiree Health Exchange, for our Medicare Exchange program. Those of you who are beneficiaries of the Church Defined Benefit Plan also receive the additional accrued pension supplement to help cover some of your Medicare Part B monthly premium. You will see this amount listed on your annual pension statement.

Most of the funding for our Church Defined Benefit and healthcare (SHARP) plans comes from tithe. Participating entities contribute a percentage of tithe to keep the plans running. We're so grateful for our participating entities and their commitment.

Efforts to counter the impact of rising costs

You likely felt the pinch of the higher than ordinary inflation in 2021. In response, for 2022 we implemented a 5.4 percent cost of living increase for the Church Defined Benefit Plan (pre-2000) and the usual—per policy—2.5 percent for the hospital plan. To further assist our retirees impacted by higher cost of goods and services (inflation), healthcare premiums (SHARP) were not increased.

In November 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published

the 2022 Medicare Parts A & B premiums, deductibles and coinsurance amounts. Notably, the standard Part B premium and the Part B deductible for Medicare participants' costs have increased sharply. These took effect on January 1, 2022. The typical monthly Medicare Part B premium is now \$170.10 for 2022, up \$21.60 or 14.5 percent. In 2022, the annual deductible for Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$233, an increase of \$30 or 14.8 percent.

CMS attributes these increases to various factors including the increase in prices and utilization across the healthcare industry, and the uncertainty of the potential use of the Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm, by Medicare participants.

The rise in Medicare costs will have a greater impact when combined with the pressures of current escalating prices for necessities like transportation, food, and utilities.

New and improved website coming Fall 2022

On another note, we're excited about launching our new website in the fall of 2022. Look for a more functional design—fresh, easy to use, and optimized for advanced search capability and mobile use. It will continue to have a Retiree section with many valuable resources and quality content. The website address will remain the same: adventistretirement.org

Here is a breakdown of the new Medicare costs:

	2021 (previous)	2022 (current)
Part B premium	\$148.50	\$170.10
Part B deductible	\$203	\$233
Part A deductible	\$1,484	\$1,556
Co-payment for hospital stay (days 61-90)	\$371/day	\$389/day
Co-payment for hospital stay (days 91+)	\$742/day	\$778/day
Skilled nursing facility co-payment (days 21-100)	\$185.50/day	\$194.50/day

We are also pleased to report that the number of current subscribers to the *Reflections* eNewsletter has increased. We have received a lot of positive feedback and hope that you continue to find this publication helpful and informative. Past issues are available online to view and download at <https://www.adventistretirement.org/retiree/reflections-newsletter/>. If you would like to get *Reflections* via email instead of print, sign up using the above web address. As always, we welcome and appreciate your feedback and suggestions.

While the last two years have been challenging, full of uncertainties, and even woe, what a blessing it is to start a fresh new year under the protection, care, and guidance of our King of glory. By placing our trust in our Lord and Savior, we have nothing to fear and can cling to the promise shared by the apostle Paul in Philippians 4:6-7, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

Have a blessed 2022, one year closer to His second coming! ■

10-Minute Bean Soup

1 can refried beans
1 can black beans
1 can diced tomatoes w/green chilies
1 can corn
1 jar salsa

Garnish suggestions: tortilla strips
avocado slices • shredded cheddar
sour cream • chopped scallions

- ◆ Combine ingredients in a pot and cook over medium heat until bubbly. Garnish as desired and serve hot. Enjoy!

SHARP Corner

WebTPA offers convenient options for claims reimbursement

Did you know there is more than one way to submit a SHARP Dental/Vision/Hearing claim for reimbursement? For online submission, all you need is your member ID number (found on your SHARP DVH card). For mail and fax, you will need to complete the Claim Reimbursement Form that can be found in your WebTPA Member Portal.

2 WAYS TO SUBMIT A CLAIM:

1 **ONLINE**

- ▶ Scan* and save your completed claim form
- ▶ Go to www.webtpa.com and log in if you have set up your Member Portal.
- ▶ Click on “File Your Claim” in the upper right corner.
- ▶ Follow the prompts to upload your document.

**If you don’t have a scanner, there are scanning apps available that utilize the camera on your smartphone or tablet.*

2 **MAIL or FAX**

- ▶ Send a copy of your claim along with the completed Claim Reimbursement Form:

BY MAIL WebTPA
PO Box 1928
Grapevine, TX 76099-9706

BY FAX 469-417-1949

Adventist Retirement

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Submit DVH claims to:
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SHARP, PO Box 1928,
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Payroll Bulletin Board:
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General payroll information:
*Lost checks, tax withholding, direct deposit,
award letters for housing, loans, Medicaid*
Ph.: 443-391-7345 or 443-391-7344

GO PAPERLESS!

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