

Reflections

December 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please note that the North American Division Office is closed December 22–25 (Christmas), January 1 (New Year's Day), and January 19 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).

Farewell to Edwin Romero

Edwin Romero, Adventist Retirement Plans administrator and North American Division associate treasurer, recently announced that he is transitioning to a new role within the church.



In a message to the Adventist Retirement Plans board members, Edwin shared:

“It has been a privilege to serve as the Adventist Retirement Plans administrator. Together, under God’s direction, we have achieved significant accomplishments on behalf of those we are entrusted to serve. I kindly ask for your prayers as we continue to serve our community and hasten the second coming of Jesus.”

During his time with Adventist Retirement, Edwin worked with the Retirement team to increase the auto-escalation maximum from 7% to 15% and negotiated for lower record-keeping fees for the defined contribution plan, transitioned the plans to a new actuarial firm, collaborated with the Adventist Learning Community to develop a course, and a number of other initiatives.

Edwin joined Adventist Retirement in 2017 as the associate administrator and chief financial officer, then became the Adventist Retirement Plans administrator in 2020 when Raymond Jimenez accepted a position as president with Adventist Healthcare Retirement Plan.

We ask you to join us in praying for Edwin and his family as they pursue this new opportunity. ■

PAYROLL BULLETIN BOARD

Checks/EFT
Released

THIS MONTH:
December 26

NEXT MONTH:
January 27

At Rest

Each quarter we publish a list in remembrance of those who have passed to their rest.

Abdul-Karim, Ellen (VA)
Albertson, Elery W. (CA)
Allen, William R. (IN)
Alvarez-Altman, Grace (NH)
Anderson, Nola A. (FL)
Anderson, Richard A. (CA)
Appenzeller, Ronald E. (OH)
Arbogast, Violet S. (CA)
Ash, Gerald F. (MD)
Ashton, John (HI)
Baird, Curtis J. (MD)
Baker, Alicejean W. (MO)
Bakke, Edda (ID)
Ballard, Mary L. (MD)
Ballou, Lionel G. (CA)





Welcome to Randy Robinson

Adventist Retirement warmly welcomes Randy Robinson as interim plans administrator.

Randy was a member of the Adventist Retirement Board for many years while serving as the Treasurer/CFO in both the Southern Union Conference and Oregon Conference, and before his retirement in 2023, he was the Board Chair while serving as the North American Division Treasurer/CFO.

“Randy’s leadership experience, technical skills, and understanding of our retirement plans make him uniquely qualified to serve as the interim administrator. We are so appreciative of his willingness to provide stability during this time of change,” said Judy R. Glass, NAD Treasurer/CFO and Adventist Retirement Board Chair. ■

NAD Votes 2026 Retirement Cost of Living Adjustment

In a show of support and concern for retired denominational employees, the North American Division Executive Committee, at its year-end meetings, voted for a 2026 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.7% for the church retirement plan beneficiaries. Hospital COLAs are always 2.5 percent by policy, regardless of inflation.

In January, retirees will receive a statement of monthly benefits. Keep this annual statement as a reminder of your benefits for the next year. If you are uncertain about what makes up your January deposit, please compare the new January statement with the one from last January. Your monthly deposit change will result from several changes and not precisely the percentage of any COLA announced. You should receive your Form 1099-R in early February. We will issue the forms towards the end of January once the final reconciliation is complete. If, after February 14, you haven’t received your form (or it has been misplaced), please call us to request a replacement. ■

At Rest *(continued)*

Barangan, Felicitacion (CA)	Borgersen, Bruce (NC)	Cesario, Frank J. (HI)
Barrera, Jose A. (WA)	Bornstein, Marilyn (FL)	Childs, Lucy F. (FL)
Barriault, David (FL)	Bortel, Bonnie B. (HI)	Christian, Lillian (WA)
Barrow, Ronald M. (TN)	Bradley, Robert, Jr. (TN)	Christoffel, Margaret (CA)
Bartlett, Terry M. (FL)	Bravo, Eliezer (FL)	Chu, Florence C. (CA)
Bason, Beryl J. (CA)	Brecht, Richard B. (GU)	Chung, Robert T. (OR)
Bauer, Richard G. (WI)	Brizendine, James (CA)	Chung, Tai M. (MD)
Becht, Grace B. (FL)	Bromme, William (MD)	Clark, Karen M. (TN)
Bennett, Peggy E. (TN)	Brown, Leone D. (OH)	Clark, Teresa K. (IN)
Bing, Herbert D. (KS)	Brown, William C. (TN)	Cochenour, David (NV)
Binkley, Glenda Fay (CA)	Bruno, Irene A. (FL)	Cooper, Jo Ann (FL)
Blair, Joan Alece (FL)	Brunt, Lone A. (WA)	Cossins, Sharon (MO)
Blankenship, Nancy (TN)	Bryan, Anne (MD)	Crew, David E. (ID)
Blanton, Judith A. (KY)	Bryan, Merlin (WA)	Cross, Douglas W. (OR)
Blum, Marion S. (CA)	Burgess, James N. (AZ)	Cunningham, Harvey (ME)
Bohner, Catherine (CA)	Carden, Dammara (FL)	DaSilva, Nelly M. (CA)
Booth, Timothy P. (OR)	Carruthers, Sharon (KS)	

Davis, Billy E. (WA)
 Davis, Claudia (WA)
 Davis, Delmer I. (MI)
 Dawson, Phyllis (TN)
 Diaz, Candida Fe Leira (CA)
 Donesky, Martha (ID)
 Doty, Phyllis L. (CA)
 Drachenberg, Robert (NC)
 Drazen, Daniel (WA)
 Durfey, Patricia (FL)
 Engel, Larry C. (TN)
 Eskridge, Floyd A. (MI)
 Esterline, Marsha (GA)
 Estey, Caren Gail (CA)
 Farley, Donald V. (CA)
 Faz, Ignacio (VA)
 Feather, Janie P. (IN)
 Fralick, William R. (ID)
 Freeman, Betty A. (CA)
 Freeth, Melanie (FL)
 French, Martha A. (CA)
 Fuentes, Jose A. (CA)
 Gaede, Kenneth (OK)
 Gaffigan, Helen T. (NJ)
 Garver, Phil G. (TN)
 Gibb, Donna (CA)
 Glenn, David L. III (WA)
 Gold, Howard W. (FL)
 Gomes, Maria G. (WA)
 Grahn, Larry P. (OH)
 Greenwood, Penny (FL)
 Gross, Joan H. (CA)
 Haenfeler, Shirley (AZ)
 Hanson, Carol Y. (WA)
 Hart, Homer F. (CA)
 Haugsted, Ruby I. (TN)
 Heisler, Edward J. (ND)
 Henson, Gertrude (FL)
 Herzo, Dennis P. (CA)
 Hevia, Estela O. (MD)
 Hickey, Preston R. (CA)
 Hicks, Wanda F. (OH)
 Higgins, Kathleen (OK)
 Hilbert, Janet M. (MI)
 Hodge, Patrick L. (CA)
 Hoffer, Frieda J. (CA)
 Hoffman, Robert (PA)
 Holder, Leslie, Sr.
 (BERMUDA)
 Jansen, John M. (TN)
 Judd, Janice D. (CA)
 Justice, Diana K. (WA)
 Kellogg, Donald A. (OR)
 Kelly, Sharon R. (MD)
 Kendrick, Clarence (TX)
 King, Eleanor M. (OR)

Kitson, L. D. (MI)
 Kon, Jonathan (CA)
 Kroneck, Donna M. (MD)
 Kuma, Hermann (NY)
 Lane, Milton B. (IA)
 Langsdale, Catherine (FL)
 Larsen, Darayl D. (WA)
 La Villa, Claudio C. (CA)
 Lee, Fred A. (CA)
 Lee, Lois W. (AZ)
 Lemon, Ruth Etta (TN)
 Lewis, Lorenzo W. (DC)
 Lilly, Barbara D. (OH)
 Lynch, Verna L. (CA)
 Loving, Jody Lee (WA)
 Mabaquiao, Arthur (CA)
 Mamanua, Beryl C. (CA)
 Manisuk, Napasak (CA)
 Marambe, Charlotte (OR)
 Martin, Faye C. (KS)
 Martsching, Marvin (KS)
 Massey, Mabel T. (AL)
 McAdams, Valentina (CA)
 McBroom, Ronald (FL)
 McChesney, John E. (CA)
 McDermott, Marilyn (AZ)
 McGuire, Joan (FL)
 McLain, Bettye H. (TX)
 McMillan, Frank D. (OR)
 Mercado, Benito D. (CA)
 Messer, George C. (CA)
 Metellus, Louis B. (FL)
 Metzger, Dorothy (MI)
 Miller, Danny (TN)
 Millia, Elma G. (DC)
 Mills, William S. (ID)
 Miyasato, Loretta (CA)
 Modell, Dorothy (FL)
 Moeckel, Douglas (MA)
 Montalvo, Manuel (FL)
 Moreno, Nhora A. (CA)
 Morrison, Robert (FL)
 Mullins, Shirley (MS)
 Musselwhite,
 Dorothy (TN)
 Neigel, Gladys (FL)
 Nelson, Elizabeth (FL)
 Nomura, Kathy M. (TN)
 Ohashi, Benjamin (CA)
 Orian, Micki (LA)
 Otis, Harold F., Jr. (MD)
 Pakkianathan, David (CA)
 Pangan, Ofelia R. (CA)
 Pascua, Saturnino (CA)
 Patrick, Louise A. (FL)
 Pearce, Julia L. (CA)

Pester, Louise T. (WA)
 Prior, Lois Ann (CA)
 Purdey, Charles L. (CA)
 Quinn, Sharon A. (CA)
 Rabuka, Mishka M. (OH)
 Reyes, Abbey (WV)
 Richards, Donna F. (ID)
 Rick, Glen D. (BC)
 Robbins, Harry C. (FL)
 Roberts, Marguerite (TN)
 Rott, Darrell A. (CO)
 Sanders, Leon F. (CO)
 Sauder, M. Louise (TN)
 Schelling, Robbie J. (OR)
 Scher, Nancy (MD)
 Schluntz, Beverly R. (ME)
 Schoening, Fred L. (MO)
 Senecal, Beaman, Jr. (VA)
 Seyle, Robert H. (ID)
 Shearer, Wilma J. (FL)
 Shepard, Charles L. (CA)
 Shyab, Charles (MD)
 Sloan, Chester D. (AZ)
 Smith, Clifton L. (WA)
 Smith, Katherine (AZ)
 Smith, Paul W. (GA)
 Snider, Daniel (ID)
 Solomon, Granville (TN)
 Spears, Imogene B. (TN)
 Spindler, Alice C. (WA)
 Staddon, Thearon (MT)
 Starkey, Linda G. (PA)
 Stiles, Joyce E. (GA)
 Stinson, Gwendolyn (FL)
 Stirl, Marcia A. (CA)
 Styadi, Budiman T. (CA)
 Sullivan, Wilma (TN)
 Thompson, Orphie (TN)
 Thomson, Eleanor
 (AUSTRALIA)
 Trickey, Johnavieve (OH)
 Van Den Hoven, Ester (CA)
 Verdun, Lovey D. (TX)
 Visovatti, Nancy V. (FL)
 Vixie, Bonnie J. (WA)
 Wade, Phyllis M. (WA)
 Wager, William S. (OH)
 Ward, Frances (GA)
 Weber, Friedrich, Sr. (MO)
 Weber, Ruth C. (TX)
 Wendth, Norman L. (MA)
 Whitehouse, Thomas (GA)
 Wiese, William (MS)
 Wiist, Arlene Rae (TX)
 Wilhite, Norma E. (FL)
 Wilson, Helen K. (CA)

Wilson, Robert G. (CA)
 Winkle, Jerold (WA)
 Winkle, Jerold (WA)
 Wolfe, Harlan J. (CA)
 Woodard, Geraldine (FL)
 Wood, Carlton E. (CA)

Wyrrick, Margue (CA)
 Ybarra, Kathleen (OR)
 Yoshida, Charles (CA)
 Young, Virginia A. (WA)
 Zenner, Guillermo F. (TX)
 Zurek, Eva L. (CA)



Barley Vegetable Soup

By Donna Green Goodman, MPH

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2–3 stalks celery, sliced or diced
- 2–3 carrots, sliced or diced
- 1 small bell pepper, diced
- 3–4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups chopped fresh Roma tomatoes
- 1 **cup each:** barley, corn, lima beans, and green beans
- Water
- McKay's Chicken Style Seasoning, to taste
- Basil, thyme, and parsley, to taste
- 1 bay leaf

- ▶ In a large soup pot over medium heat, sauté onion, celery, carrots, bell pepper, and garlic in oil for 3–5 minutes.
- ▶ Stir in tomatoes, barley, corn, beans, and 4 cups water. Season to taste with chicken style seasoning and herbs. Let simmer a few minutes.
- ▶ Add 2–4 cups water, bring to a boil.
- ▶ Lower heat and simmer until vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes. (Add more water and seasonings as needed.)

Adapted from the **Joy of Eating** site. Go to <https://nadhealth.org/joyofeating/recipes/>



AdventistRetirement

Seventh-day Adventist Church
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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Defined Benefit &
Healthcare Plans*

Wirmin Alcantara
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