

Class of 1977

### Class Agents

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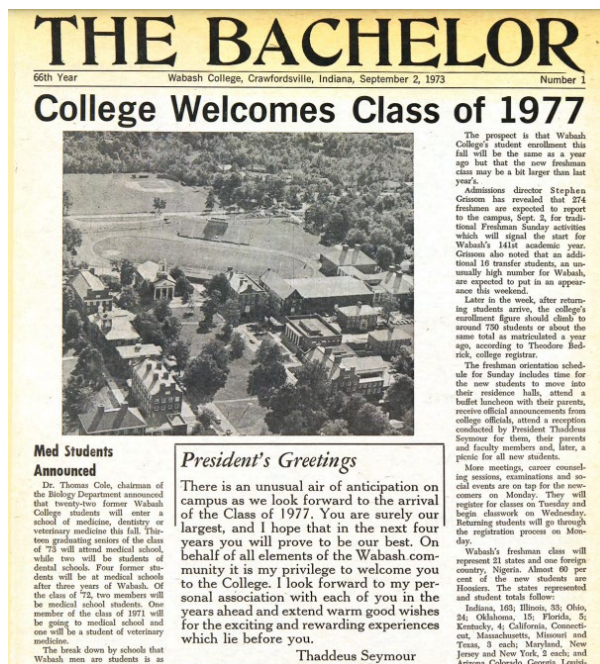
**wabash.edu**

Late August 2023

## THEN AND NOW ...

**THEN – Late August 1973:** You were one of 274 members of the Class of 1977, beginning college as a freshman at Wabash precisely 50 years ago.

Perhaps you made it to the movies to see the latest Bond film *Live and Let Die* over the summer. You might have even caught that George Lucas movie *American Graffiti* before you too headed off for college.



When we were listening to music on our AM/FM radios, chances are we were enjoying Diana Ross' "Touch Me in the Morning," Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get it On," the Stories' "Brother Louie," and "Smoke on the Water" by Deep Purple. On our turntables, we were playing Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" and Led Zeppelin's "House of the Holy."

When we watched TV, our family was tuning in to "All in the Family" or "The Waltons" or "Sanford and Son" or "M\*A\*S\*H."

We were about to get to know Dr. Thaddeus

Seymour, Dr. Thomas Cole, Dr. Edward McClean, and other illustrious members of the faculty and staff at Wabash. Some of us had pledged fraternities and we were learning the meaning of the word Rhynies along the way. Others were moving into Martindale, Morris or Wolcott Halls.

We learned that Wabash was transitioning from a six-point scale to a four-point scale for the purpose of us knowing our own grade point averages. We were going to be attending a class called Freshman Tutorial, and we'd be venturing to the Strand theater and other places in "downtown" Crawfordsville and the Boulevard Mall in the weeks ahead.

**NOW – Late August 2023:** Wabash just welcomed 237 members of the Class of 2027 earlier this month, matriculating to the college and coming to Crawfordsville from 21 states and 10 different countries. "Use your time here to build lifelong relationships with roommates, classmates, and teammates," President Scott Feller said to the incoming students on what's now Freshman Saturday. "Take seriously the offer of open office hours by your professors. You will discover that our faculty are genuinely accessible and they care deeply about your intellectual and emotional growth over the next four years, and long after that.



"Sing in the Glee Club, write for *The Bachelor*, get involved in theater or politics, join clubs, intern in a professor's lab, compete. Engage with the nation's top alumni network," Feller continued. "Fill your life with challenge, opportunity, and joy."

As the college prepared for this influx of new students, it also celebrated good news. In "*The Princeton Review's Best 389 Colleges*," Wabash stands among the top-15 percent of more than 2,500 U.S.-based four-year colleges. Wabash professors ranked No. 1 nationally in accessibility and No. 2 for high marks, setting the pace for a robust rankings profile. Additionally, career services (No. 2), campus newspaper (No. 3), student government (No. 3), and financial aid (No. 5) each garnered top-five rankings. Here's a link to the story, which contains more details:

<https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13158>

I wanted to share this retrospective with you with a suggestion – **connect or reconnect**. If you haven't been engaged with Wabash, there are plenty of opportunities to do so in the months ahead. Many of us are retired and we've discovered there are a lot of ways we can fill up our calendars. Find some time to include Wabash in that. You can watch campus activities via the college's live stream, or come back to Crawfordsville in person and see many of your favorite places. They're still there. You will

discover that the place which helped teach us to think critically, act responsibly, live humanely and lead courageously is the same, and it's going to benefit the class of 2027 in much the same way as it did for us, the class of 1977.

**THANK YOU** – The numbers have been recorded, and several dozen members of the Class of '77 donated to the college's annual fund during academic year 2022-2023. That helped Wabash raise \$3.8 million in that period, second best in the college's 191-year history. We also exceeded that 40% participation rate as well. Every contribution – from \$100 to \$10,000 or more – helped make that possible. Here's a link to the final info on it: <https://www.wabash.edu/news/story/13155>

**CORRECTION:** The Homecoming awards ceremony will be held at **10:30 a.m. on Saturday**, September 23 in the Chapel. Classmate GARY REAMEY will be receiving the Alumni Distinguished Service Award, and there are lots of other alumni also being honored there, including Jeff Birk '74, older brother of our GREG BIRK. It's a great day to come back to Wabash. Here's a link to sign up:

<https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/homecoming>

There is also a soccer match and a Glee Club Homecoming Concert on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. And, if you want a ticket for the football game vs. Oberlin at 2 p.m., here's a link for that (and yes, we need to buy tickets in 2023, unlike in 1973): <https://wabashtickets.universitytickets.com/>

Another great day will be on Saturday, October 7, beginning at noon. The college will celebrate the success of its largest-ever fund-raising campaign, "Giant Steps" that day. Originally intended to raise \$225 million, this campaign will cap out with more than \$250 million given to alma mater. Here's a link to some details. <https://www.wabash.edu/agiantmoment/>



### SUMMER PHOTO

My Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity brothers held their own "Wabash night" at an Indianapolis Indians game in late July. This is a photo of the attendees, which included, in the second row L to R MARC ADAMS, TED FERGUSON and STEVE HEIMANN. In

the back row (far left) is TOM BOYER as well.

If you have news, photos, etc. you wish to share with your classmates, don't hesitate to pass them along to me (John), and we'll include the details in a future class letter.

**FINALLY** – From time to time we will be featuring stories at the tail end of our class letters from David Troutman, who is Wabash's director of gift planning. This one is about Charitable IRA Rollovers, something those may want to think about as we approach ages 70.5 to 73, that "magic year" at which we with IRAs must make withdrawals from them or be subject to IRS penalties. (I cringed when I read the words 50% penalty.) It follows below.

Thanks for reading – hope you'll join us at Wabash for homecoming on September 23, and/or at Giant Steps on October 7. YES, I'm planning to be at both, and hope to see you there! (John K.)

### **FOLLOW WABASH ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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- TikTok: [tiktok.com/@wabashcollege32](https://tiktok.com/@wabashcollege32)
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- YouTube: [youtube.com/WabashCollege](https://youtube.com/WabashCollege)

Regional groups, athletics and teams, Student Senate, MXIBS, La Alianza, GHI, WDPD, and CIBE have accounts across social media as well.

# Charitable IRA Rollover FAQs

by David Troutman, Director of Gift Planning • July 1, 2023

Charitable IRA Rollovers, also known as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), are tax-savvy ways for many people aged 70 ½ or older to make charitable gifts. We have compiled a list of frequently asked questions here. Please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 765-361-6135 or email [giftplanning@wabash.edu](mailto:giftplanning@wabash.edu) if you need further assistance.

## WHAT IS A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER?

A Charitable IRA Rollover, also known as a QCD, is a gift from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualifying charitable organization, such as Wabash College, sent directly from the IRA to the charity.

## IS A QCD THE SAME THING AS A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER?

Yes. A QCD is the language used in the tax code and it is also often, commonly referred to as a Charitable IRA Rollover.

## WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE FOR MAKING A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER GIFT?

You must turn 70 ½ prior to requesting the distribution.

## WHEN AM I REQUIRED TO START REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS (RMDs)?

You must take your first RMD for the year in which you reach age 73. However, you can delay taking the first RMD until April 1 of the following year.

## HOW DO I CREATE A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY USING A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER?

The SECURE ACT 2.0 permits an [IRA to Gift Annuity Rollover](#) where each eligible tax payer over the age of 70 ½ can execute a QCD from their traditional IRA up to \$50,000 in total in one year only. Multiple charities may be allowed to contract Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) so long as the \$50,000 cumulative total of all CGA contracts is not exceeded that year. Also, once a CGA is created in a given year, no additional years are permitted for creating a CGA with a QCD, even if the original \$50,000 threshold wasn't reached in the first year the contract was issued.

## WHAT IS THE TAX TREATMENT FOR CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVERS?

There is no income tax deduction for a Charitable IRA Rollover because the funds are never included in the donor's income in the beginning. Accordingly, ordinary income tax, which would otherwise be due on withdrawals from an IRA, is not assessed on the gift. For people who do not itemize their taxes, this may be more beneficial than a tax deduction.

You may find it advantageous to make a Charitable IRA Rollover gift in the absence of being required to take your RMDs so that when it's time to take RMDs, you may possibly lower your tax liability. If an account owner fails to withdraw a RMD, fails to withdraw the full amount of the RMD, or fails to withdraw the RMD by the applicable deadline (including QCDs to charity), the amount not withdrawn

is taxed at 50%. Please consult your tax advisor regarding the best charitable and financial strategy for your situation.

#### **WHAT TYPE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SHOULD I EXPECT?**

Wabash will send you a written acknowledgment of your gift to thank you and to confirm the amount of your gift and its intended purpose. Because there is no income tax deduction, you will not receive a conventional receipt.

#### **I HAVE A ROTH IRA. CAN I USE IT FOR A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER?**

Roth IRAs are eligible for rollover treatment, however, because distributions from Roth IRAs are not taxed as ordinary income, you may wish to discuss with your financial advisor whether this is the best way for you to give.

#### **I DO NOT HAVE AN IRA. CAN I MAKE A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER FROM ANOTHER RETIREMENT ACCOUNT?**

No, transfers must come directly from an IRA. However, if you have retirement assets in a 401(k), 403(b) or other qualified funds, you may be able to roll those funds into an IRA, then use the IRA for charitable giving. Please discuss this with your financial advisor.

#### **WHAT IS THE MINIMUM GIFT SIZE?**

The minimum gift size depends on the policies of your IRA custodian. The maximum distribution for an outright gift from your IRA is \$100,000, per account holder, per year. The minimum distribution for a Charitable IRA Rollover to a CGA is currently \$10,000 at Wabash, and the maximum distribution for all Charitable IRA Rollovers to all charities for a CGA is \$50,000 in one year only. The cumulative total of all Charitable IRA Rollover gifts, which may be a combination of outright gifts and CGAs, may not exceed \$100,000 in a given year.

#### **ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON THE CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER?**

A rollover cannot be used to make gifts when the donor receives a benefit in return (i.e. to attend a dinner).

#### **HOW DO I INITIATE A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER?**

You should start by contacting your IRA custodian. Only custodians of IRAs are permitted to make Charitable Rollovers on behalf of their account holders. If you have check-writing privileges on your IRA, your IRA custodian must act on your behalf – checks must be written by your IRA custodian to Wabash College. If you receive a check from your custodian payable to Wabash College, the gift is considered complete only after funds have been withdrawn from your account. If you're relying on a QCD to satisfy in part or whole, your RMD for the taxable year, you'll want to be especially careful to time your gift so that funds are withdrawn before December 31.

Please let us know that a Charitable IRA Rollover is being initiated. Occasionally we receive funds from an IRA custodian without the donor's name or desired gift designation attached.

## **ARE THERE SPECIAL FORMS I NEED TO USE?**

IRA custodians are becoming very familiar with these types of gifts. Our [IRA custodian tool](#) may help you to determine if your custodian has its own form to request the transfer; if not, please visit our IRA [Charitable Rollover Instructions](#) to find a sample instruction letter to your IRA custodian.

Please let us know that a Charitable IRA Rollover is being initiated. Occasionally we receive funds from an IRA custodian without the donor's name or desired gift designation attached.

## **WHEN CAN I INITIATE A REQUEST FOR A QCD FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR?**

You may request a distribution at any time after reaching 70 ½ years of age. The funds must generally come out of your IRA by December 31 each year. However, please begin your transfer by early December to allow ample time for your transfer to be completed and cashed by Wabash College.

## **CAN MY IRA GIFT SATISFY A PLEDGE OR CREATE AN ENDOWED FUND?**

Yes. Payment schedules of various lengths may be established by the donor with a maximum duration of five years.

## **HOW DO I KNOW IF A CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER IS RIGHT FOR ME?**

If you are over the age of 70 ½ and have an IRA, the rollover might be right for you if:

- You do not itemize deductions on your income tax return;
- You do not need your RMD;
- Your RMD causes more of your Social Security income to be taxed; or
- You are making charitable contributions at your deduction limit, but want to do more.

## **I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS. WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT?**

Please call the Office of Gift Planning at 765-361-6135 or e-mail us at [giftplanning@wabash.edu](mailto:giftplanning@wabash.edu)