

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Present: Ginny Bowman, Ronald Chleboski, Angela Conte, Patricia Cray, Eileen McFadden Drake, Joseph Scorpion, Diane Welsh, and Roger Westman.

President Pat Cray called the meeting to order at 10:05 am in the DoubleTree Hotel in Green Tree, PA.

Minutes of April 17, 2013

Joe Scorpion moved and Diane Welsh seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2013 Board meeting. The motion carried.

The minutes of the luncheon meeting of April 17, 2013 were approved upon a motion by Ginny Bowman and seconded by Joe Scorpion.

Luncheon and Tour Reservations

Angela Conte reported there were 38 reservations for today's luncheon and nothing yet for the June 6 tour of the Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens as the announcement for the tour has not yet been received by folks. Arrangements have been made to send out directions to the Gardens to the registrants. Angie also said that 23 people joined the Deutschtown tour on April 26.

Pat has recruited Ray Diehl to do the 50/50 raffle. In recognition of this Joe Scorpion moved, and Angie seconded the motion, to extend the discount on the luncheons that the Board has to Ray. The motion carried, so starting today he will only need to pay \$10.00 for his luncheons.

The speaker for today's luncheon is Timothy Johnson, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Retirement Office. He will address the issue of the various amounts of life insurance coverage for retirees and why it is so complicated to determine the appropriate amounts awarded over time. The projector and screen for today will cost us \$300 because we meet here regularly, rather than the \$500 rental for a one time meeting.

Newsletter

Editor Ginny Bowman said the latest newsletter is at the printer today. The deadline for the next issue is Friday, August 16. That issue will be sent to all retirees as previously agreed. It will highlight the activities for the entire upcoming year.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ron Chleboski recapped his written report that was previously emailed. Total assets at the end of April are down to \$49,079 because income for April was \$1,936 while expenses were \$4,745.

Ron said that a refund from the DoubleTree has been requested because they billed the previous luncheon at \$23.00 plus service charge and tax per person, instead of \$23.00 total.

Roger Westman reported the membership is now 1,053. Eileen Drake suggested it might be better for members if we move the fiscal year for dues to September through August, rather than on a calendar year basis.

#### Website

Roger reported on the May 10 meeting with Imagebox with which ACRA has contracted to develop a website. Pat, Ginny, Joe and Roger attended. All seemed pleased with the initial progress.

#### President's Report

Pat used some of the dates for Venture Outdoors activities to offer our members kayaking lessons (July 26 & 27) in North Park and a kayak trip (July 22) on the Allegheny River. She also suggested a hike in Frick Park (Aug 2) followed by the First Friday concert in August at nearby Clayton. Roger cautioned that the timing and space issues at Clayton for the concert would make that combination of hike and concert unsatisfactory.

Pat has talked to Calvary Cemetery in Squirrel Hill/Greenfield about helping out the veterans group there to put flags on the graves of the veterans. She got no reply from the Jefferson Cemetery about doing so.

Pat, Joe, Eileen and Roger said they would be attending the Pension Summit hosted by the Allegheny County Retirement Office at the Lexus Club at PNC Park on May 22.

#### Treasurer's Position

Roger summarized the discussion of the small group of Board members (Ron, Joe, Angie, Roger) on what to do about a possible vacancy in the Treasurer's position if it is not filled at the next election since Ron will have resigned when his term finishes. The group first suggested requesting volunteers and giving more publicity to the need for someone to run for the office; then to make the position easier to manage, hire someone or find a member (preferably a Board member) who is willing to handle all the membership duties (billings, roster, etc). That person would report to the Treasurer and the Treasurer would become a member of the Membership Committee.

If we fail to find someone for Treasurer, then Roger would be willing to become the Treasurer, assuming he could find or hire someone to handle the membership duties, and Eileen would become Secretary, backed up when she is not able to be present by Joe Scorpion.

The next Board meeting will be August 7 at the Panera Bread store in the Galleria in Mt. Lebanon. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Westman  
Secretary

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION  
LUNCHEON MEETING  
May 15, 2013  
DoubleTree Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree

President Pat Cray welcomed everyone and introduced Timothy Johnson, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Retirement Office as today's speaker. Mr. Johnson was recently appointed to that position after serving six years on the Retirement Board.

Mr. Johnson explained that he was invited to speak about the changes he is planning to make in the office, but will speak instead about the life insurance benefits for retirees because that is what he is getting the most questions about. He now has a better understanding of this problem which previously he did not know existed. He said the Retirement Board is aware that some misinformation has been provided to retirees over the years.

He explained the County provides the life insurance benefits and pays the premium whereas the Retirement Office administers the program. There have been four contracts between 1998 and 2013 with MetLife, Standard, and Prudential insurance companies each winning the bids one or more times during those periods. Most contracts run for four years, but the lengths have varied. The benefits vary between the contracts with the minimum amount of insurance being \$1,500 and maximums often at \$10,000. Options for coverage have been offered as well as differences between administrative and bargaining unit employee coverage at times.

He believed that 85% to 95% of the retiree records of coverage provided are correct; however, problems exist because of conversions between one computer system to another, no regular review or corrections being made, and having four departments involved with no universal view of how this benefit system works. He has formed a task force including Human Resources, the Budget Office, and the Retirement Office to clarify and help resolve the issues, which must be resolved so the contract can be re-bid by the end of the year.

Mr. Johnson promised that any coverage currently in place will remain (there is a grandfather clause) and that confirmation will be provided to retirees. Questions should be directed to him at 412-350-4674. Mr. Johnson answered questions but was unable to stay for lunch.

After lunch Pat spoke of the Pension Summit which the Retirement Office is presenting on May 22 and which is open for retirees to attend with prior registration. She also acknowledged the article on Timothy Johnson by Sister Mary Nolan originally in the ACRA newsletter that was reprinted in the new RBAC newsletter.

Pat then announced the series of luncheon meetings from September through December and the activities of walk 'n' talks, tours, and kayaking (lessons and trip)

planned for this summer. She also said that a veterans' group would welcome volunteers to help place small American flags on the graves of veterans in Calvary Cemetery in Squirrel Hill/Greenfield as part of the ACRA President's Memorial Day Project.

Pat stressed that ACRA needs someone to run for Treasurer in the next election. The 50/50 raffle yielded a jackpot of \$30. Door prizes included two \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards and a free meal from the DoubleTree.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger westman  
Secretary