

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Present: Ginny Bowman, Angela Conte, Patricia Cray, Joseph Scorpion, Diane Welsh, and Roger Westman.

Absent: Eileen McFadden Drake.

President Pat Cray called the meeting to order at 10:00 am at the DoubleTree Hotel in Green Tree, PA.

Minutes of Previous Meetings and Luncheons

The minutes of the Board Meeting of November 20, 2013 were approved upon a motion by Joe Scorpion, seconded by Diane Welsh. The minutes of the luncheon on the same day were approved upon a motion by Ginny Bowman, seconded by Diane Welsh.

The minutes of the luncheon on March 19, 2014 were approved upon a motion by Pat Cray, seconded by Joe Scorpion. The minutes of the Board meeting on April 7, 2014 were approved upon a motion by Joe Scorpion, seconded by Ginny Bowman.

Treasurer's Report

Two items were presented as requested reimbursement to Angela Conte: the Post Office Box 5335 rental fee for \$117.00 per year and two Giant Eagle gift cards for door prizes for a sum of \$40.00.

Angela said there were 11 folks registered for the tour of the Glass Center, so we have met the minimum of 10. The cost of the tour is \$10.00 per person.

The Board approved the above expenditures and the appropriate fee for the Glass Center tour on a motion by Joe Scorpion, seconded by Roger Westman.

Treasurer Angela Conte said all the invoices approved last month have been paid except for the amount for Administrative Assistant Cassie Brandon for which she will have a check for two signatures today.

It was agreed to transfer \$2,500 to the Postal Account to cover the mailings for the next 6 months. The PO Box in Gibsonia has been closed and mail should now be forwarded to PO Box 5335.

Tax Return

The Form 990 tax return may be due in May. Roger Westman will explore what is needed and report back. Interest from Citizen's Bank of \$33.98 and dividends and capital gains totaling \$879.73 from Vanguard will need to be recorded on the return.

Luncheons

With the cancellation by Timothy Johnson from the Retirement Office as today's speaker, Pat asked the Sheriff's Office if they could speak on consumer scams and

identity theft. The sheriff originally speaking was changed on last Monday to Deputy Sheriff Jason Tarap.

For May, the speaker will be from the UPMC Institute for Aging. Pat cannot be present that day so Joe Scorpion will run the luncheon. There will be no Board meeting that day.

Pat said she had no contracts with the hotel for luncheons this fall. After deciding to hold luncheons in addition to the Annual Meeting, it was agreed to plan them as follows with these possible topics:

September 17 A political analyst.

October 15 APPRISE on Medicare options and changes

November 19 Annual Meeting and APPRISE counseling sessions,
perhaps with "Name that Tune" type entertainment.

December 10 Christmas party, potentially with entertainment.

Newsletter

Pat announced that the newsletter format she had suggested last month would not result in any significant savings, plus the font may be too small, so we should stay with what we have for now. Ginny Bowman, Editor, was asked to look into the cost of having one color added to the newsletter printing to increase appeal.

Ginny has emailed Kelly Deasy at the Retirement Office asking for labels for all retirees to be supplied to Banksville Express for the May newsletter. Roger suggested including a petition for folks to sign and return asking for an increase in their pension. Then the petitions can be presented to the Retirement Board.

The deadline for the September issue will be in late August.

Retirement Board Vacancy

Pat questioned whether this was the time for her to run for the vacancy due to personal items. It was suggested that those would pass soon enough but the term would be for four years. She then agreed again to have her name placed in nomination.

Life Insurance Benefit

Joe asked whether or not everybody on the Board had received a letter restoring the higher limits of their policy if such an increase applied to them. Ginny said she had not received her letter. It was agreed to ask at the luncheon if such was the case with other members to determine if it was worth pursuing on their behalf.

Pension Increase

Pat said she had three folks who volunteered their story for her to present to the Retirement Board, with names changed, concerning the need for an increase.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Westman
Secretary

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

Luncheon Meeting

April 16, 2014

President Pat Cray opened the luncheon at noon with the introduction of Deputy Sheriff Jason Tarap to speak on identity theft and consumer fraud. He is a Crime Prevention Specialist.

His points he said can be summed up by saying that there is fraud and theft due to our own complacency and desire for convenience. His talk was well received. He recommended:

- 1) pressing the clear or cancel button when finished and waiting for the confirming beep when using credit cards at gas pumps or ATM machines,
- 2) reviewing credit card statements in detail each month and getting a free credit bureau report at least one a year but spread quarterly over the three bureaus,
- 3) never taking a call from a credit card company, instead always call them back,
- 4) not including your street address or phone number on printed checks--get free blank checks from the bank,
- 5) reading ones' Medicare statements,
- 6) removing labels from old prescription bottles and address labels from donated magazines,
- 7) removing chips from old cell phones before disposing or donating them,
- 8) paying bills in person rather than on-line, and
- 9) sharing anti-theft ideas with others.

Pat explained why Timothy Johnson of the Retirement Office was not present today as originally scheduled. She announced the walk 'n' talk at the Glass Center for April 22, for the Botanical Gardens on May 6, and the luncheon program for May 21, which will be Brain Games to help keep an agile mind. The presenter will be Terry Averil from the UPMC Aging Institute.

In answer to Pat's inquiry, three attendees raised their hands to say they had not yet received letters from the Retirement Office reinstating their life insurance benefit. ACRA may pursue that. She also said she will continue pressing for a \$25/month increase in the pension benefits.

Pat announced she will be running for the vacancy on the Retirement Board and hoped that folks would support her.

The 50/50 drawing awarded \$43.00 to the winner and the same to ACRA.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Westman
Secretary