

Allegheny County Retirees Association  
Meeting Minutes  
November 15, 2017  
10:00 AM

**Present:** Cassie Brandon, Angela Conte, Pamela Long, Joan McMahon, JoAnna McQuaide, Janet Norkus, Connie Przybyla, Pete Schepis, Guy Tumolo

**Absent:** Marge Lubawy

**Attendees:** Bob Muessner

**Approval of minutes from October 31, 2017** with spelling and organizational corrections- Moved Angie Conte Seconded Joan McMahon Passed

**Financial Report and Approval of Expenses –**

Janet Norkus is to reflect the month's activities and not reconcile to the bank statement in the financial report. Motion to accept the financial report with a balance of \$50,703.26 in all our accounts. Moved Pete Schepis Second Joan McMahon Passed. Motion to approve the payment of expenses of \$361.16. Moved Pamela Long Seconded Pete Schepis Passed.

**Committee Reports**

**Newsletter** -Connie Przybyla reported that she is taking a picture to be added to the newsletter which will go out on Dec 1 and emailed on the same day. The In Memorium list for the December newsletter came back quickly from the retirement board. No room for trivia in this issue.

**Program**

Holiday Party raffle gifts will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts up to approximately \$50. Food includes salmon, chicken Romano, noodles (rigatoni wit sauce), salad, pasta salad. No outside cookies or food.

**Special Events** - Connie Przybyla reported that the PPG Paints Arena tour is of other locker rooms, not the Penguins; \$8 for seniors; \$6.25 for parking; private tours for groups of 20+. We will schedule this for March on a week day preferably other than Wednesday. The Ducky Tour or Gateway Clipper outing is earmarked for May. The Phipps Conservatory will be scheduled during the Spring Flower Show (April). Phipps is \$16.25 for seniors, and has parking in the mid-section of the road that is monitored.

**Picnic-** Parks department recommended the following with our parameters: indoor plumbing, level area, handicap parking, electric, and outside space; Rose Barn in North Park. It is \$350 to rent but it is a large facility. The Boat House vendor does not cater. We only use any place for a short time so we may get a discount on the rental.

Botanical Park excursion was not well attended this year. It rained.

**Election** – Bob Muessner, Chair, reported his committee consisted of: Angela Conte, Fran Carter, Bill Ortmann, Ginny Bowman, Donna Brusco, Kathleen and Michael Leone and Dave Gerlach, all helped count the ballots. All officers running were re-elected. All offices except for secretary had write-in candidates.

## **Discussion of Open Issues**

Telephone contract was signed with Answernet at a rate of \$10 per month. The new phone number will be published in the news letter.

New membership application and renewal draft form was presented by Connie Przybyla. An announcement in the March newsletter will inform members that they should use the September newsletter to renew their membership for 2019.

Subsidies and establishing maximums - A discussion ensued about the fund balance and various ways to use it for the benefit of the members. Motion to reduce the cost of the holiday Party to \$10 (in advance) for everyone. Moved Connie Przybyla Second Joan McMahon Passed.

**Adjournment** 11:30 Moved Pamela Long Second Pete Schepis. Passed.

## **Luncheon Meeting**

President Guy Tumolo reported to the membership that the Holiday Party cost to members and guests is reduced to \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Bob Muessner announced the results of the election: President Guy Tumolo, Vice President Pete Schepis, Treasurer Janet Norkus, and Secretary JoAnna McQuaide. He thanked his committee of Ginny Bowman, Fran Carter, Angie Conte, Dave Gerlach, Kathleen and Michael Leone and Bill Ortmann.

The speakers were Walt Szymanski Manager, Retirement Bard and Bill McKendree, Director, APPRISE. Mr. Szymanski answered all the questions that were prepared by the Board of Directors and submitted to him in advance. He did confirm that the insurance contract for the death benefit has been rebid and a new vendor will be in place beginning January 2018. He offered to respond to individual inquiries as to the specific amount of death benefit that individual is entitled to. He also said it is his goal to have inquiries answered within one business day.

Retirees who elected spousal benefits whose spouse pre-deceases them must upon the death of their spouse contact the Retirement Board and submit a death certificate to facilitate an adjustment of their pension to the original full pension amount. If a member dies, notify the board so they can adjust the member's benefit to surviving spouse levels. Spousal selection can only be elected at the time of retirement. Change of address and change of beneficiary forms are on-line for easy access. His number is 412-350-3256.

Bill McKendree talked about the coverage differences between Medi-gap and Medicare Advantage plans; the different companies trying to get a foothold in our area, the limits of the one-time election of Medi-gap, the Community Health Choices program for dually eligible Medicare/Medicaid recipients set to be implemented in southwest PA in 2019; and Part D (drugs) options. His number is 412-661-1438.

The 50/50 drawing was held for \$42 and two \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards were raffled.

Respectfully Submitted,  
JoAnna McQuaide  
Secretary