

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Present: Ginny Bowman, Angela Conte, Patricia Cray, Eileen McFadden Drake, and Roger Westman.

Absent: Ronald Chleboski, Joseph Scorpion, and Diane Welsh,

President Pat Cray called the meeting to order at 9:39 am. She announced that Joe Scorpion had called and said he had fallen and would not be able to be present.

Minutes of September 18, 2013

Pat was unsatisfied with the wording of the minutes as circulated. Angela Conte also had several comments on them. Secretary Roger Westman asked Board Members to provide him with alternate wording to be incorporated so that they can be re-circulated and approved at the next meeting.

Angela also mentioned the location of the Halloween walk 'n' talk is at the Allegheny Cemetery on Butler Street in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh while the restaurant suggested for lunch, Stinky's, is a five minute walk away on 49th and Hatfield Streets. She was there this morning to confirm the location.

Because Angela handles monies for the luncheons and walk 'n' talks, Pat said she should be bonded, just as the President and Treasurer currently are.

Review of Past Minutes

In the course of reviewing past minutes to write a history of ACRA for the website, Pat came across a listing in the minutes of June 2004 to a mutual fund of \$7,000. She could find no mention of its disposition. She will ask Treasurer Ron Chleboski to go back through the financial records to see if there is any way to determine what became of those funds.

Investment Strategy

Joe Scorpion had recommended to Pat when he called this morning that ACRA make two investments in mutual funds: \$12,500 in the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund and \$12,500 with Northwest Advisors and Trust Services. Due to some uncertainty in the market, Roger suggested making smaller investments of a few thousand dollars each over a period of time to benefit from "dollar cost averaging." It was then noticed that the minimum investment for the Northwest mutual fund is \$25,000 so Joe's recommendation would not be feasible. **Instead Pat moved and Angela seconded the motion to investment \$25,000 in the Vanguard Wellesley Mutual Fund in the name of ACRA with the President and Treasurer as being contacts, and to do so as soon as prudently possible. The motion was approved unanimously upon a roll call vote of all present.** Pat will call Ron Chleboski to get this started.

Luncheons

Pat related that the DoubleTree had called to ask if we would be back in 2014, noting that there will be an increase in price. Pat speculated the new cost might be in the \$25 range. Pat said before the Board could answer that question it would need to see a breakdown of the anticipated income and expenses for the year.

The DoubleTree is the best in terms of location and pricing that we have been able to find to date. Station Square, for instance, had given a price of between \$30 and \$35 per person. Thoughts were expressed about increasing our members' charge to \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. Pat also questioned whether ACRA can sustain 7 to 8 luncheons per year considering the attendance levels at some of them. She put forth that perhaps we should not hold luncheons that attract only 35 people. Angela felt that dues should be used to sustain the organization; questioning if dues should also be used to underwrite those that attend the luncheons.

Pat mentioned the need to develop a schedule of speakers for March, April and May. She will not be able to be present for the March luncheon. Eileen suggested including a survey with the dues notices to go out in mid-November asking for preferences of programs. Eileen will draft a questionnaire.

Elections

At today's luncheon, nominations will be taken for officers. With Ron Chleboski's departure from the Board, there was concern over getting a nominee for Treasurer. Roger reminded folks that a back-up plan had been suggested, with him taking over the Treasurer's duties if he can find help handling the incoming checks; Eileen would become secretary with Joe providing back-up to her when she was not here; and we could find or hire someone part-time to handle the incoming checks. Additional duties were suggested for that part-time person as a way to help other Board Members with their current responsibilities. Those items were to update the webpage and make the monthly mailings to new retirees. A job description could go in the next newsletter. Pat asked everyone to develop such a job description before the next meeting.

Angela noted there was a vacant Board position and wondered if should also be on the ballot for a one year term. Pat said she prefers that the new Board appoint someone to that position.

Newsletter

Editor Ginny Bowman announced the deadline for the next issue as November 15.

Miscellaneous

Angela made the point that members who come to observe the Board meetings should not sit at the table nor participate during the meetings unless recognized by the chair, otherwise there could be chaos. She thought something should be put into the By-Laws to make this official.

Pat said the primary topics of November's Board meeting should be the potential job description and the speakers for next year.

Roger noted that the Retirement Office has plans for presentations during the "National Save for Retirement Week," October 21 to 26. ACRA will have a place on

their agenda to promote ACRA membership but we have heard nothing as to when or where during that week those presentations will be held. Although he was initially listed on the agenda to speak on behalf of ACRA and was trying to save open those days, Roger does not know if he can be there if they happen.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Westman
Secretary

ALLEGHENY COUNTY RETIREES ASSOCIATION
LUNCHEON MEETING
October 16, 2013; 12:00 noon
DoubleTree Hotel Pittsburgh Green Tree

President Pat Cray introduced the speaker William England, the Pennsylvania State Director for Enroll America. Enroll America is the national non-profit organization charged with getting the maximum number of people enrolled in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). He was substituting for Joanne Grossi of the Regional Office of the Department of Health and Human Services who was unable to make it due the government shutdown over budget and deficit issues. Pat had told the luncheon attendees how thankful we are to have Mr England step in on short notice.

Mr. England pointed out that the ACA, frequently referred to as “Obamacare,” is the biggest policy change since Medicare was introduced, and can provide health insurance to many currently uninsured people. He made his case for ACA with words and statistics showing the need for ACA and what it could do. He also talked about Medicaid expansion. He said for current Medicare recipients, the only changes will be to lower prescription drug costs and to prohibit lifetime limits in insurance policies. Over three years, what is now known as the prescription drug “donut hole” will disappear. Copies of informational sheets will be available next month.

After lunch was provided and in anticipation of Veterans’ Day coming up, Pat asked all veterans to stand and be recognized so that we could pay tribute to their contributions.

She announced that our next luncheon on November 20 will be the Annual Meeting. Health care counselors from APPRISE will be present. Members should call 412-277-2990 to make reservations for a counseling session and bring a list of their prescription drugs with them.

On October 29 there will be a walk ‘n’ talk at 11:00 am in the Allegheny Cemetery led by David Ginnell, one of our previous speakers. Lunch will follow at Stinky’s restaurant at 49th and Hatfield St. On December 6 will be the guided tour of the Hartwood Acres mansion which will be decorated for Christmas. The annual ACRA Christmas party will be December 11.

Pat asked for nominations for officers. The nominees were Pat Cray for President, Joe Scorpion for Vice-President, and Roger Westman for Secretary. No nominations were made for Treasurer and the nominations were closed after each call for nominations. Biographical information on the candidates is due by Friday, October 18. Board Member Angela Conte will head up the Elections Committee.

Pat thanked Barbara Elnyczky for providing lady locks today for all to enjoy. The 50/50 winner received \$50. In the absence of Giant Eagle gift cards as prizes, the door prizes consisted of two \$20 reimbursements for free lunches. The luncheon was adjourned at 1:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Westman
Secretary