

Allegheny County Retirees Association
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2017
10:00 AM

Present: Angela Conte, Pamela Long, Marge Lubawy, Joan McMahon, JoAnna McQuaide, Janet Norkus, Connie Pryzbyla, Pete Schepis, Guy Tumolo

Absent: Cassie Brandon

Attendees: Ginny Bowman

Approval of minutes from August 9, 2017 with spelling corrections- Moved Marge Lubawy Seconded Connie Pryzbyla Passed

Financial Report and Approval of Expenses - Moved Pete Schepis Seconded Marge Lubawy Passed. Motion to accept the Financial Report and payment of expenses; we have a beginning balance of \$50,955.08 and an ending balance of \$49,063.38 in the checking/savings account. Moved Pete Schepis Seconded Pamela Long Passed.

Discussion of Open Issues –

Newsletter The September issue of the newsletter was sent to over 4000 Allegheny County retirees. Next issue is to go out December 1st. Upcoming articles include: Intergenerational Tutoring, congratulations to new retirees, highlight of County retiree who has sang the national anthem for 40 years in his community, history of the Allegheny County Jail, Bayernhof Museum Tour and the Wigle Whiskey tour. Future articles will include histories of County Police and the County Airport.

Committees

Program - Dr. Davis-Jones is not coming due to illness. Dr. Eric Hulse, Department of Human Services, Office of Data Analysis and Research will report on opiate deaths in Allegheny County. Louise Sturgess is confirmed for October 31 and requests a stipend.

Other ideas: The author of the Haunted series (Route 22, Highways, PA) Ed Keleman is a retired police officer who lives in Johnstown could be the speaker for April 2018. Should we give him a stipend for gas of \$50?

Wigle Whiskey Tour is set for October 12 and we sent a deposit. It starts at 11 am in Strip district, Smallman Street.

Christmas party entertainment - Karaoke for \$200 or "Two guys named Moe" by Jimmy Sapienza. We will try keep meal price the same as last year. Board members cannot participate in the Chinese raffle but are to bring a gift(s) up to \$100 and will be reimbursed.

Bayernhof Museum Tour – 11 members attended. A new guide took them on a very enjoyable 2 hour tour of instruments and rooms where they did lots of sitting and listening to stories.

Questions for the Retirement Board

How is the board improving responsiveness to inquiries from retirees?

Does the staff provide an exit meeting to orient new retirees?

What is the retirement death benefit?

Can they purchase additional insurance to supplement the standard death benefit?

If a retiree purchased additional insurance as an employee does that effect the amount the beneficiary will receive?

What are the benchmarks for considering a pension increases?

How many active retirees are there?

Is there a program to prepare employee to become retirees?

What is the financial impact of the \$20 increase?

Who can we contact to work with ACRA on our mailing lists, newsletter, and promotional literature to be included with your packet?

How to access the remaining portion of the retirees' portion of the pension fund for the spouse?

Nomination Committee – Ginny Bowman, chair, reported that there were no new nominations yet. Ginny has a committee. Ask Bob Muessner again if he would do the counting this year again or ask for volunteers from the floor. If no other nominations we will send out ballots no matter what. Allow space for write in if no nominations from the floor. Envelopes will be sent to Bob's home address to may tallying easier.

New business

Voice mail carrier was bought by another company. In the last 19 months, there were 31 calls. The cost was \$120/year and will go up. VoiceNation wouldn't take a check and would only take a credit card with auto-withdrawal. Calls were being picked up by Roger Westman and his credit card secured the service. Let's find a new vendor.

Adjournment 11:03 Moved Marge Lubawy Seconded JoAnna McQuaide. Passed.

Luncheon Meeting

Vice President Pete Schepis welcomed the group. He informed the membership about the upcoming elections of officers and asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Speaker Dr. Eric Hulseley talked about the opioid crisis confronting us today.

The 50/50 drawing was held for \$72 and two \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards were raffled.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnna McQuaide
Secretary