

Allegheny County Retires Association
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2017
10:00 AM

Present: Cassie Brandon, Angela Conte, Pamela Long, Joan McMahon, JoAnna McQuaide, Janet Norkus, Connie Pryzbyla, Pete Schepis, Guy Tumolo
Absent: Marge Lubawy
Attendees: Ginny Bowman, Tom Kelly

Approval of minutes from February 15, 2017 with major corrections. Moved: Janet Norkus, Seconded: Pamela Long. Passed

Financial Report and Approval of Expenses -

Motion to approve Payment of expenses: Moved: Pete Schepis, Seconded: Angela Conte. Passed. The balance in our account is \$53,879.63. Motion to accept the Financial Report: Moved: Joan McMahon, Seconded: Pamela Long. Passed.

Committee Reports –

Audit

Janet Norkus, Pete Schepis, Tom Kelly, and Gary DiCroce met to review the bank statements for the year and compared them to invoices. The Committee found everything to be in order. Our treasurer used a Quicken program for all transactions in the calendar year 2016.

Newsletter

Content – Plan for future newsletters is to highlight various County departments' history. June's department highlight will be the Health Department. The September edition will highlight Juvenile Court. Future articles will be on member hobbies/talents. Requests to members about their hobbies will be solicited at future luncheon/meetings. Some of the hobbies are on dragon boat racing, and orchid growing. An article regarding the PNC Park tour will also be included in the September newsletter. Email newsletter experiment – Our web-site has no capability to send out mass emailings but the website, Mail Chimp, allows you to send up to 2,000 mass emails per month for free. Connie Przybyla emailed 617 members the March newsletter. Approximately 75 email addresses were not correct. Over 62% of the emails were opened, and most were opened twice. The average rate for opening mass emails is 29%. Three members unsubscribed, with no explanation.

New email address (acretireeassociation@gmail.com) has generated 5-6 emails with questions for the Board. The new address has no s after retiree.

Membership

Ginny Bowman purchased a stamp to put on the membership packet envelope to draw attention to new retirees to our association. We supply the Retirement Board approximately 200 membership packets per year. To pre-print envelopes with the wording larger by Banksville Printing will cost \$108 on white envelopes. Cassie Brandon reported that there are 1248 members, 949 are paid for 2017. 54 new responses were received from Janet Norkus today. Last year, 2016, had 1082 paid members. There are 193 who have not paid for 2016 and 78 unpaid for both 2016 and 2017. We will send out a second notice to pay 2017 dues and cut off those who don't from future newsletter/luncheon mailings.

Program

Update on the Speakers for the year: Mary Bach, Consumer Advocate, is slated for April, Mike Spagnoletti in May. June is the picnic, September is the health related theme. Joan McMahon has contacted the Arthritis Foundation, American Heart Association and the Alzheimer's Association about securing a speaker. It was suggested that the Health Department or Juvenile Probation be contacted to talk on the subject on opiate addiction. Medicare update from APPRISE and Retirement Board are slated for November, and the Holiday Party in December. Ed Urban who does a history of the jail could not make the open dates. Louise Sturgess charges \$150 for her speech on modern architecture with a Pittsburgh twist for October 18. She needs a laptop, projector and screen which costs \$375. Connie Przybyla offered her laptop to save money. Motion to pay her stipend and audio-visual equipment costs: Moved: Janet Norkus, Seconded: Pete Schepis. Passed. For the November luncheon, we will provide the Retirement Board a list of questions in advance to be addressed at the meeting. Bill McKendree, Lead Counselor of APPRISE will speak at the November meeting on Medicare and Medicare updates.

Special Event/PNC Tour

The PNC tour will commence on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 from 10 am until 12 noon. We have 25 slots with the capability to add up to 50. We must have the final count to them 14 days in advance. The cost is \$7 per person payable in advance. We will pay the Park the \$7 per person fee in advance. Pete Schepis will call in the reservation.

Angela Conte brought pamphlets for Venture Outdoors who could also be a speaker/activity.

Agenda/Sequence of Luncheon Meeting: The President will welcome members, present a short general meeting, lunch and lastly the speaker.

New business

Retirement Board decision on raises for retirees. Guy Tumolo reported that there will be no increase this year. Increases were part of the plan with 2017 as the year to review. Criteria for granting a raise are: keep the fund solvent, actuarially

sound, and be worth over \$900 million before an increase can be considered. Indicators were not met which is why there will be no increase this year. Next year they will look at an increase again. Questions raised by board members: What are the benchmarks? Death benefit is \$10,000 or \$5000 for some? What happens in 2018? These and other questions are to be answered by the retirement board in November.

Adjournment 11:35.

Luncheon Meeting

President Guy Tumolo welcomed the membership. He reported that the audit committee with Tom Kelly, chair, and Gary DeCroce found the status of the finances to be in good shape for 2016.

Baruch Hyman, owner of Crown Antiques and Collectibles on Fifth Avenue, appraised members' treasures. He talked about pricing differences and various appraisals of articles. He also offered members the opportunity to send him pictures of large objects or furniture for his opinion. He took questions from the audience on furniture, political memorabilia, Fiesta ware, and jewelry.

The 50/50 drawing was held for \$45 and two \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards were raffled.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnna McQuaide
Secretary