

Allegheny County Retires Association  
Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2017  
10:00 AM

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

**Approval of minutes from March 2017** as revised: Moved Joan McMahon Seconded Pamela Long. Passed

**Approval of minutes from April** as corrected with spelling errors: Moved Marge Lubawy Seconded Joan McMahon. Passed

**Financial Status Report** - Beginning balance \$34,175.37 and ending balance \$34,926.77. Moved Joan McMahon Seconded Connie Pryzbyla Passed.

**Approval of Expenses** - Moved Pete Schepis Seconded Pamela Long Passed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Newsletter:** Connie Pryzbyla asked the County Retirement Board to send updated list of members who passed away for the June newsletter which is at printers and ready to go for printing and mailing. The September newsletter will be distributed to all retirees. It will include a flyer with an application on one side and on the other side reasons to join ACRA. It will have articles regarding the following: Flu Shots, Juvenile Court history, and a member's hobby of growing orchids; Marge Lubawy will write an article on the picnic; Pete Schepis will do one on the PNC park tour. This newsletter which goes out to all retirees will include a membership application and quotes from members as to why they enjoy belonging to ACRA. December's newsletter is already planned.

**Website** – The new brochure is on the site as is the ACRA membership application. Both are in two places on the site. A mass email went to 555 members with 35 returned as undeliverable which will be corrected/deleted. Email addresses have now been corrected/deleted. 55% of the 595 members have opened the email, which is a very good percentage. It is hard to separate those who just want to get an electronic copy from those who want a hard copy. In the renewal letter we suggested to change "1000 members" to "over 1000 members".

**Program -**

**Update on Luncheon Speakers** – Pamela Long talked to Dr. Latika Davis-Jones, Assistant Deputy Director, Bureau of Drug & Alcohol, Office of Behavioral Health, Department of Human Services. She will come in September to talk about opiate addiction and other drug related topics in Allegheny County.

**Questions for Retirement Board** (November meeting) include:

How is the Retirement Board improving responsiveness to retiree inquiries?

What kind of orientation are new retirees getting prior to retiring?

Is there a staff person we can contact for information and assistance in informing new retirees of the existence of ACRA?

Explain the post-retirement death benefit and the roles of the Retirement Board and the County. What amount of death benefit is provided free? Can additional insurance be purchased by individual retirees?

What are the existing provisions for considering increases in pensions for retired members of the pension system?

Insurance issues are under the purview of the county HR, not the retirement board. The board will take up the question of a raise next year (2019). State law does not require boards to give raises. Also Jerry Bergman, former retirement board executive director, passed away.

**Special Events** PNC Park Tour - 25 members have paid so far. It can be expanded to accommodate a larger group. Participants will meet at the Willie Stargell statue at 9:45. Check web-site. No cameras in locker room.

**Also** Wagle Whiskey Distillery – (where whiskey is made) Guy Tumolo to investigate for October.

Discover the Burgh –For July, Marge Lubawy to investigate the Bayernhof Museum which limits groups to 10. Homewood Cemetery has 3 different tours at \$10 per person on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11 am for September.

Clayton at Frick Museum –  
Roberto Clemente museum

**Nominations** - of members for the ballot in October. All of the current officers are willing to run for another term. Pete Schepis will step aside if someone wants to run. Guy Tumolo will announce the Nomination chairperson at lunch. Some members whose names were suggested were: Ginny Bowman, Joyce Dodge, Fran Carter, and Diane Welsh. The Election Committee who conducts the election, counts the ballots, and reports the results in November will be formed later in the year.

**New business** – The feasibility of purchasing a projector rather than renting one from the hotel was discussed. Pete Schepis volunteered to be responsible for bringing the projector. Connie Pryzbyla will order one from Amazon and reimbursed later. Moved Angie Conte Seconded Joan McMahon. Passed.

There will be a Board meeting in August (date to be announced) at Panera's in Oakland (on the Boulevard of Allies).

The September meeting is the member appreciation luncheon which is \$10 if the member pre-registers and \$15 at the door and guests pay \$20 in advance or at the door. Everyone attending gets a discount.

**Other Issues** - Angie Conte made a motion to remove members with unpaid dues for 2016 before big mailing in June, (37 people haven't paid) Seconded Janet Norkus. Passed  
Adjournment 11:20 Moved Pete Schepis Seconded Janet Norkus. Passed.

### **Luncheon Meeting**

President Guy Tumolo addressed the membership appreciation luncheon, October's speaker Louise Sturgess, nomination committee results and the request for questions for the Retirement Board. President Tumolo also announced the Nomination Committee Chairman, Ginny Bowman. Officer Mike Spagnoletti, of the Community Readiness and Crime Prevention Unit, Allegheny County Police, gave a talk after lunch, entitled "Personal Safety, Identity Theft, and Scams" targeting senior citizens. He emphasized having awareness of surroundings, the proper mindset, avoiding dangerous situations, and parking in safe, well-lit places.

The 50/50 drawing was held for \$41 and two \$20 Giant Eagle gift card door prizes were raffled.

Respectfully Submitted,

JoAnna McQuaide  
Secretary