



Allegheny County

Retirees Association

<http://acretirees.org>

Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022
10:00 AM

Present: Hugh Hackmeister, Pamela Long, Joan McMahon, JoAnna McQuaide, Connie Przybyla, Donna Johnson-Smith, Cathy Thomas, Guy Tumolo

Absent: Marge Lubawy

Approval of minutes from September 21, 2022: Moved: Connie Przybyla
Seconded: Hugh Hackmeister Passed.

Financial Status Report and Approval of Expenses

Motion to approve the payment of expenses \$267.31: Moved: Joan McMahon
Seconded: Pam Long Passed.

Motion to accept the Financial Report with a total in all accounts of \$46,370.82:
Moved: Connie Przybyla Seconded: Pam Long Passed.

Committee Report

Newsletter - Hugh made a motion to recognize all the arduous work and effort made by Connie for the outstanding job she has done. Moved: Hugh Hackmeister Seconded: JoAnna McQuaide Passed. Articles are due at the end of the month.

Luncheon Meeting – Gwen Bronson will introduce the speakers. They will bring pamphlets on elder law.

Registration – Joan and Pam

50/50 Raffle – Ed Przybyla and Cathy

Elections

Ballots Mailed

Votes Due – October 28

Election Committee – Bob Muessner, Chair, Nov. 2 room reserved from 10-12

Holiday Party - no news yet nor anything purchased due to cash flow issue. Pam and JoAnna to help Connie with putting the favors together.

New Business

Financial Discussion Topics

Increase Dues to \$20 for 2023

Luncheon Increase to \$20 members \$25 guests \$15 Board members - lunch is \$20.35 plus 24% admin fee plus 7 % tax. The presentation package (mike, podium, and screen is \$285.26 which includes the 31% admin and tax. We are



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subsidizing the lunch for everyone, and it is affecting the cash flow. We all agreed that if the members pay their money and do not show up, we are not refunding their check.

Eliminate March meeting – due to unpredictable weather in March

Eliminate Member Appreciation Day subsidy

Charge \$1 door prize ticket- No It was changed to \$25 in cash from our share of the 50/50 raffle. Getting the certificates is becoming a burden.

Change 50/50 to 1 for \$5 and three for \$10 - No

\$1 Service fee if we get a group rate

Motion to "As of January 1, 2023 Increase annual dues to \$20 the luncheon fees to the members, \$25 for guests and \$15 for the board, no refunds on reservations, eliminate the March luncheon meeting for 2023, eliminate Members Appreciation Day, decrease the number of door prizes to one of \$25 from the cash in the 50/50, and add a \$1 service fee for special events only if a group discount is received. Moved: Guy Tumolo
Seconded: Hugh Hackmeister Passed.

Option to liquidate the Vanguard Investment account - We do not have access to the mutual funds at Vanguard. The only way we have is to access them is to liquidate. Considering the cash flow crisis, we have started the process. The board recommends that the excess funds be invested in a money market after January 1, 2023. Moved: Guy Tumolo
Seconded: Cathy Thomas Passed.

Suggested programs for 2023

Zoo, history center, CMU OSHER program has a limited number of members which could affect the number of seniors who could join, or Dr. Pete Keim a flag collector.

Other Issues

Adjournment Next meeting is the Annual Meeting November 16, 2022, at 10 am.
Move: Pam Long
Seconded: Cathy Thomas
Passed.

Luncheon Meeting

Guy called the meeting to order and went over upcoming events. He also reviewed changes to be made for the new year approved by the Board.

Guest speaker, Carl Zacharia, previously of the Law Department, and James Benedek did a presentation to the membership on Elder Law and estate planning.



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Two pamphlets Carl wrote were about the 5-year lookback and how to get on Medicaid as it pertains to nursing homes were available. (There is a link on the website if you want to download a copy.)

Mr. Benedek spoke on the three most important documents for seniors to have. First is the durable financial power of attorney which allows someone to manage all your finances should you be incapable of doing so. It should be someone you trust to have your best interests at heart. It dies with you and takes effect immediately. A limited power of attorney becomes effective when you are declared incompetent.

Second is a Healthcare or medical power of attorney which should be someone you trust to make your wishes known when you are incapable of participating in your medical decisions.

Third is the Last Will and Testament where the executor manages the distribution of your assets to the beneficiaries

Different relatives have different rates of inheritance from 0-15%. There is no reduction in inheritance tax by putting it in trusts or TOD.

Many instruments like life insurance and annuities do not go through the will or probate because there are beneficiaries.

Other issues to consider: Irrevocable Grantor Trusts; Medicare/Medicaid 5 year look back; IRS/Medicaid tax rules on gifting; what are countable assets for the non-nursing home spouse; Asset caps; converting assets to income; handicapped adult children living with you; Joint Tenancy in Common with Right of Survivorship; and Tenants in Entirety.

Counseling is a key factor in estate planning and specific expertise is available to help minimize the tax and Medicare/Medicaid burdens.

Two Giant Eagle gift certificates were won and the 50/50 raffle was \$89.

Respectfully Submitted,
JoAnna McQuaide
Secretary