

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN UNIT90-IRTA  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING**

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

Submitted by Frank Compton

**Present:** Frank Compton, Bob Lyons, Doris Haack, Bobby Rheinhardt, Len Kortekass, Bill McCauley, Marybelle Macro, Jeanne Arcus, Jesse Macro, Roger Steingraber, Reinhard Taylor.  
**Guests:** Ron Gummerson, June Janetzke

**1) Treasurer's Report (Len Kortekass)**

**2) President's Report (Doris Haack)**

The Website, <http://www.irta-unit90.org>, has worked very well with 85 visits in December, 200 in January, and 17 in February. 28 members responded to the survey on choices for the April trip. Many thanks to Reinhard for his skillful efforts. Second, it is vital that all of us respond to the IRTA Call to Action on the issues of GPO and WEP and contact our representatives. Next the IFT is sponsoring a seminar in Westmont on April 18 and another in Gurnee on May 9 on TRS and CMS, especially on TRIP concerns. The Unit 90 Directory will be done by The Ink Well. For 12 hundred copies, the charge will be \$3541.00. For another \$1500.00 we will get them stuffed in envelopes of the right size and properly bound. Next the deadline for the newsletter is February 16. Finally, the 211 Retirees Breakfast will be on March 10 at Stonegate in Hoffman Estates where all are welcome.

**3) Leadership Search (Bob Lyons and Bill McCauley)**

The committee compiled the duties of the President and Vice-President and expressed a need for a person to step forward to be the President who will have much support. Some of the duties of this position can be done by others such as the newsletter.

**4) Bill Hinchliff Tour (Jeanne Arcus)**

Based on the web survey, the top 2 choices were Architecture and Millennium Park Tour and the Pullman Tour. A vote was taken with the majority picking Pullman. Therefore, we will leave on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 from the Forest View Education Center at 8:00am. The distance to Pullman means an earlier departure time. We will return by 5:00pm. The cost of \$55.00 includes the bus, the tour, and lunch as well as a Unit 90 subsidy. The deadline to sign up is Friday, April 13, 2007. On the top of the flyer will be a phone number for cancellations etc.

**5) Committee Reports**

**Membership (Bobby Reinhardt)**

We now have 812 members with 110 who still need to renew.

**Foundation (Bob Ferguson)**

Bob received thanks for memorial contributions.

### **Hospitality (Marybelle Macro)**

The Meridian date is confirmed for the Holiday Luncheon next December.

### **Communications (Bill McCauley)**

Bill attended the IRTA Legislative Committee Meeting in Springfield on January 24, 2007 which emphasized contacting state representatives and senators on the GPO and WEP issues. The Senate bill is SB 26 while the House Bill is HB 82. There was a discussion about endorsing candidates. A proposal chaired by Bob Pinkerton will be voted on during the coming Fall Convention. Basically this proposal would state that the IRTA would endorse only incumbents who have an established track record of supporting IRTA legislation. This would apply to all state races including the governor and state senatorial and state house races. We have a problem with local candidates who are usually favorable to us regardless of political party. A further problem is that the endorsement of a particular candidate could antagonize local members if that candidate is not of their party. Jim Bachmann feels we should endorse candidates to show our political power. Different opinions were expressed on this issue. Some felt we should not endorse. A vote was taken on whether or not the IRTA should get involved in endorsing incumbents. The majority of our executive board voted no. The next issue was whether or not the IRTA should endorse incumbents and challengers. Again the majority voted no. Should our local unit have the ability to endorse candidates? Here the feeling was pretty much positive. All these votes at this executive meeting were straw votes. Finally, Bill needs retiree names. We will contact Flowers, and others will help in various districts.

### **Legislation (Bob Lyons)**

First, the big picture is that 5 or 6 organizations have done a study of the State of Illinois financial operations. All felt the State needs to increase revenue. The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability looked carefully at income of all kinds and what could be changed. For the fiscal year 2008 the increase will be 600 million. This group felt the Governor could sweep existing funds and charge for State services. This fiscal year the increase was 300 million. If we look at the 600 million the State needs to put into our pension fund, the State must take all the new revenue to do this which it will not. Again all these groups see the need to increase revenues. One idea is to raise the State Income Tax and lower property taxes. Such an increase would affect those above a certain income level. Many feel that we are in a perfect storm for revising the whole tax system. The legislators have been quiet except for the idea of increasing the number of casinos and selling the State lottery. Without a major change the pensions will continue to suffer. At the end of calendar year 2006 our investments made 9.4%. There is more detail in Bob's e-mail about the figures.. Active members, for the first time, contributed more than the State. This trend will continue as long as the investments hold up. Finally, the hedge funds issue is always seen as controversial. The key to investing in these funds is picking the right ones. TRS invests in hedge funds that are conservative and effective, but a recent Tribune writer did not report on the subject in a fair or accurate way.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING AND STUFFING OF THE NEWSLETTER AND DIRECTORY:  
MARCH 7, 2007**