

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN UNIT 90-IRTA  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING**

April 4, 2007

Submitted by Frank Compton

**Present:**

Frank Compton, Bobby Reinhardt, Jesse Macro, Marybelle Macro, Doris Haack, Rich Chierico, Bob Lyons, Reinhard Taylor, Len Kortekass, Bob Ferguson, Jeanne Arcus, Bill McCauley, Roger Steingraber. Guests: Rich Rogowski, Bob Given, and June Janetzke.

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

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

The Website ([www.irta-unit90.org](http://www.irta-unit90.org)) has been extremely effective. From October to April we averaged 44 hits per day. The monthly totals are as follows: November 673, December 730, January 4270, and March 1068. Doris will attend the IRTA Executive Board Meeting on April 24 and 25. The electric rates issue involves a decision of our position. Enron gave people in Southern Illinois a discount if they used electricity for everything; they rescinded this policy which led to terrific increases in rates as high as 300%. We should support IRTA groups to address a revision of these rates. A motion for this support was made by Rich Chierico and seconded by Bobby Reinhardt and passed. The Area 2 Conference will take place on May 31 in Elgin at the Holiday Inn on Route 31 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Frank Compton, Rich Chierico, Roger Steingraber, Bob Ferguson, Bob Lyons, and Len Kortekass will try to attend. The Newsletter deadline is Friday, April 20, 2007.

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

The search is progressing.

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

This tour will take place on Tuesday, April 24, 2007 and will cover the Pullman area and the Southeast side of Chicago at a cost of \$55.00. The bus will load for 8:15 until 8:45 when it will depart from the Forest View Education Center. The deadline was Friday, April 13, but Jeanne had to close applications after the 22nd of March because of the excellent response. She will call those who were too late today and place them on a waiting list.

**5) New Retirees of the Class of 2007 ( Bill McCauley)**

Len Kortekass, to his credit, got the District 211 retirees list. We have a partial list from Barrington and the Maine district. Rich Chierico asked if we might sponsor a breakfast in the fall for these retirees. This idea will be considered at the May meeting.

**6) Summer Luncheon ( Liz White)**

The Summer Luncheon will be at the Inverness Golf Club on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 with a menu of the following choices: Shrimp Spinach Salad, California Citrus Salad or Chicken Marsala. All these will be served with a fresh vegetable soup and Peach Bread Pudding for dessert. The cost is \$24.00, but Marybelle Macro made a motion to subsidize the cost by 4 dollars to arrive at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Bob Lyons seconded this motion which was passed. Marybelle will do the table programs as well as serve as the main greeter. Bob Lyons will

look into finding a speaker while Roger Steingraber will run his 50/50 raffle. Valet parking is available at \$3.00 per car. Liz White will write the reservation flyer and generally organize this event.

## **7) Committee Reports**

### **Membership ( Bobby Reinhardt)**

We have 835 paid up members and 80 need to renew which shows the effectiveness of mailing reminders. Life-time membership is not effective. Bobby purchased membership cards at a cost of 8 cents each.

### **Information Services ( Rich Chierico)**

The Day at the Races is almost completely organized.

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

Bob attended the last Legislation Committee Meeting where Eilene Nykritz suggested in Bill 3400 that all members of retirement boards should be appointed who have five years of investment experience. This bill disappeared because of a strong negative reaction. The ad hoc increase was the next issue. Tim Lee, who now has a similar position in Texas as he did in Illinois, asked about our investments. Texas requires a 6% contribution by the State, but there is no yearly cost of living increase. Next WEP and GPO came up. The State representatives might vote on this which really would have no effect. The credibility of Democrats in Washington on this issue will be tested. Bob raised the issue of backing a proven incumbent who has a good record of support even if a local unit objects to that person. All Unit 90 Board members voted to send this issue to the Board of Directors. Bill McCauley brought up the contrast between the position of a legislator who co-sponsors a bill and the actual vote of that person. Therefore, Bill questions the whole endorsement issue. It does not look as if there is support for the endorsement of candidates by the IRTA. Next the Governor has budgeted less for TRIP for the 2008 fiscal year. The feeling is that there is a wait-and-see approach about TRIP. Bill McCauley asked about the bill to tax all pensions. The Governor has a health insurance tax and the general revenue tax which he increased. Bill 750 is basically a tax swap between State Income Tax and Property Tax and would include a tax on all pensions. The IEA and IFT may support this. Also there are the plans to lease the lottery for 35 years and to issue 16 billion dollars in pension bonds. If these plans went through, we would be 83% funded. Rich Chierico suggested sending out this information to the members. Most felt that this information could be included in the Newsletter.

## **8) Miscellaneous:**

Bob Lyons will have information for those in the Schaumburg area concerning the independence of its Library.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: MAY 2, 2007**