

Northwest Suburban Unit 90-Irta
Minutes Of Executive Board Meeting

February 13, 2008

Submitted by Frank Compton

Present: Frank Compton, Jesse Macro, Bob Ferguson, Roger Steingraber, Bill McCauley, Rich Chierico, Reinhard Taylor, Len Kortekaas, Bob Lyons, Doris Haack, Liz White.

Guests: Carolyn White

1) Treasurer's Report (Bob Ferguson)

2) President's Report (Len Kortekaas)

We wish the very best for Marybelle Macro to overcome her illness. She is in our prayers.

3) Unit 90 Schedule (Len Kortekaas)

The first event is the tour by Dr. Cutler on April 22, 2008 with Jeanne Arcus as coordinator. The bus has been reserved and will depart from Forest View at 8:30. After discussion of the various tours suggested last month, the Board's choice was the Ethnic Chicago #1 tour which includes areas like Maxwell Street, Little Italy, Old Town etc. Having lunch at a local restaurant like Manny's is very appealing. The cost will be \$50.00 per person. Next is the Summer Luncheon which will take place on Tuesday, June 10 at the Inverness Golf Club with Liz White in charge. Then comes the Day at the Races, coordinated by Rich Chierico, which will take place at Arlington Park on September 18, 2008. The cost of \$50.00 per person will include some profit which will be divided between the Senior Center and Unit 90. The Legislative Luncheon is next and will take place on possible dates from October 1 to October 3 at the Inverness Golf Club. Marybelle Macro and Liz and Carolyn White will be in charge. The main goal is to discuss possible problems with State legislators. As yet no price has been mentioned. The final event is the Holiday Luncheon which will occur on December 3, 2008 at Meridan Banquets. A \$500.00 deposit has been made. Marybelle Macro and Liz White will coordinate this event.

4) IRTA Region 3 Legislative Committee Report (Jesse Macro)

Jesse began by handing out the IRTA questionnaire. The IRTA will endorse only incumbents. These include State House representatives who want to run for the State Senate. No endorsements will be given to new candidates. Rich Chierico pointed out that the word "Candidate" should be defined and the title of the questionnaire should read "Incumbents." The next meeting of this committee will be on March 4. Jesse mentioned that the voterVOICE response program was discussed. The last issue was the IRTA position to vote against a Constitutional Convention. We need to spread the word on this position. Liz White pointed out that the next Newsletter should focus on this very issue. Bob Lyons then mentioned that the expenses of health insurance have gone up, but there seems to be some optimism about cost reduction in the future.

5) E-Mailing Newsletter (Reinhard Taylor)

Dealing with the possibility of sending the Newsletter by e-mail in order to save money, Reinhard dealt with the website itself. We bought a software program, File Maker Pro 9.0 for Mac/Win. So far we have entered 2082 records. Not all of these are members now but may have been. We now have 809 members paid up with 128 who have to renew. A list of 2008 retirees is not yet, at this point, available. The data base itself is in 4 locations and very current. Bill McCauley sent out a group e-mail fairly successfully. We're working on some small problems. Next time we will do a mailing, but will ask people if they prefer a mailing or an e-mail.

6) Committee Reports

Foundation (Doris Haack)

Doris mentioned that the Local 1211 Legislative Breakfast will be on March 8 at Stonegate. She also pointed out the Area 2 Conference will come up and feels we should have TRS come. She is open to any other suggestions.

Communications (Bill McCauley)

Again in light of what Reinhard said, we are considering e-mailing newsletters. Bill will experiment by sending the next newsletter to the Board through the website.

Information Services (Rich Chierico)

Rich brought up the issue of the ceiling of 2 million in his medical insurance. Unicare would inform him of the cost each month. However, CI GNA does not do this. The excuse they give is not having the software to do this.

Volunteer Services (Carolyn White)

We are still seeking people to volunteer.

Legislative (Bob Lyons and Jessie Macro)

Bob stated that we have an inherent deficit of 2 billion. The year of 2008 is the first time we received the proper pension funding. However, this is a poor year financially with the decline in gambling and decreased revenues because of the general condition of the economy. Bob feels that there will be a move to issue pension obligation bonds. This worked in 2003, but we do not know when the market will bottom out. We received 250 million less this year because of interest payments on bonds etc. Finally, Bob was asked about real estate in California which he said was good but very expensive based on some pictures he passed around of property and the prices for it.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 5, 2008