

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN UNIT 90-IRTA
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2009
SUBMITTED BY FRANK COMPTON

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

Guests: Dave Buchheit and Ron Gummerson

1) Treasurer's Report (Bob Ferguson)

2) President's Report (Len Kortekaas)

The AFT-IFT Legislative Breakfast will be on March 7th at Stonegate with Len, Bob Ferguson, and Liz White going at this time. There will be a REST Breakfast at 9:00 am at Apple Villa on February 18th.

3) Unit 90 Schedule for 2009 (Len Kortekaas)

Our first event is the Area II Conference which will occur on March 16th at Randall Oaks Golf Club in West Dundee. There will be a continental breakfast as well as a luncheon. Unit 90 will cover the cost of \$15.00 per person. Sign up and notify Doris Haack by March 1st. Doris is the coordinator.

Next is the Spring Tour which will run on 2 days: Tuesday, April 14th and Thursday, April 23rd. The Board decided on Tour # 5, Historic Chicago Highlights and Landmarks led by Dr. Cutler. The deposit for the buses has been sent in. Len Kortekaas and Liz White are in charge.

The Summer Luncheon follows on Wednesday, June 17th at the Inverness Golf Club with the Whites organizing.

The Newbee Breakfast and IRTA meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9th at the Arlington Heights Senior Center. Liz White will check on the rooms. She and Len are in charge. Then comes the Day at the Races on Thursday, September 17th at Arlington Park. Rich Chierico is organizing this event. Because of higher costs in an upgraded menu and higher liquor prices, Rich will not sign the contract until we decide what we want. After some discussion, Rich suggested we go with the soft drink package if people could purchase liquor on their own. This would make the price about the same as last year. If this option will not work, Rich will try another option.

The Golf Outing might take place this fall if Len can get some feedback after he sends out information. Bob Ferguson and the Whites will coordinate if there is real interest.

The 2009 IRTA State Convention will take place on Monday, October 19th and Tuesday, October 20th at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield with Len Kortekaas as coordinator.

Our final event of the year is the Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 3rd. The Whites will be in charge. Carolyn White will check out several places to try to get a fair deal.

4) IRTA Region 3 Reports (Doris Haack and Reinhard Taylor)

The Area 2 Conference, as noted in 2009 Schedule will be on March 16th. Reinhard will attend the next State meeting in March.

5) Directory (Reinhard Taylor)

First Reinhard handed out an extensive list of the hits on our web site from April 2007 to January 2009 which had an average of 7 daily visits and 212 monthly visits. This is a great addition to our Unit 90. Many thanks to Reinhard. He can update the Directory quickly. We have 600 members on e-mail who could receive the Directory that way. To print the Directory would cost \$1.50 per booklet. In addition the mailing cost for a thousand would run to \$2.00 per booklet. Reinhard feels about 700 members would receive the printed out and mailed Directory. Ordering 1000 would probably work. We could include the Directory in the next Newsletter Mailing.

6) Membership Drive (Bill McCauley)

Len Kortekaas handed out a list of contacts for different districts from Bill McCauley which is a work in progress. (See attachment)

7) Committee Reports

Membership (Bobby Reinhardt)

853 members are up to date while 229 need to renew.

Volunteer Services (Carolyn White)

She will have information for the Newsletter.

Legislative (Jesse Macro and Bob Lyons)

Jesse attended the Legislative Meeting in Springfield. He feels the endorsement issue needs feedback from our unit. Jim Bachman felt he did not want of influence decisions at the time. The Legislative Committee wants strict deadlines for the legislators to file in any endorsement process. Many legislators thought the form was too long. The other issue at the meeting was the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provisions (GPO-WEP). Jim Bachman went to a meeting on this matter and was discouraged. Most of the teachers who would benefit from this change could be bumped up to receive more money. However, only 13 States have supported these changes. Bob Lyons was the only person to turn in signatures for election to the TRS Board on time. Bob is now on the TRS Board. We congratulate him! He did go to the hearing for impeachment of the Governor in the Illinois House where most members tried to say something significant, but Bob could not get into the Illinois Senate Chamber for the actual impeachment. Governor Quinn is going to face a real challenge. First, he needs to find out the exact budget deficit which is at least between 3 to 5 billion. Much of this money is already owed. Finding revenue is a major problem. Raising the gas and state incomes taxes will not be popular. Pensions have not been focused on, but for a legislator to suggest taxing all retirement pensions would not really go over. The next issue is the consolidation of all the State

Retirement Funds. Combining all the State Retirement Funds is the idea of State Treasurer, Alexi Giannoulias, who has poor arguments such as saving some money in the cost of administering an individual fund. These savings are not that much. A new retirement board would not have much representation for retired teachers. Giannoulias may have shifted to seeking a US Senate seat as opposed to running for Governor. Our investments going down 5% would not affect the obligation of the State. To stay even, our investments need to make 8%. This means we are off, given losses, 13%. There is really no place to go for our investments. We did get some return in the dollar field which is solid because of confidence. T-bills are also fairly good because of this same confidence. TRS funds are down 20%, but we have not hit bottom. We have 30 billion in our fund at this point.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 4, 2009