



Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 10:00 am Arlington Heights Senior Center - Room 183A

Attendance: Linda Wallin, Frank Compton, Bobby Reinhardt, Janette Wanner, Liz White, Jane McCauley, Linda Wagner, Bob Lyons, Reinhard Taylor, Janice Calvey,, Richard Chierico, Bob Kaplan, Sandy Ratter, Carolyn White, Karl Heinz Gabbey, Bob Ferguson
Guest: Wendy Wieggers

- 1. Minutes** (Linda Wallin) from Feb. 5, 2020 were approved.
- 2. Treasurer's Report** (Sandy Ratter) was approved.
- 3. President's Report** (Jane McCauley)

Bob Kaplan reported on the committee to revise the Constitution. He clarified that Board of Directors meetings are not Executive Committee meetings. He also clarified the duties of each office. The annual report shall be given at the January meeting. There was a discussion about how to increase membership. If a surviving spouse is a local member, they must join state to get AMBA benefits. Wendy Wieger asked if surviving spouse can keep AMBA benefits and the answer was yes, he will be a TRS member. The motion to approve by Bob Lyons' revision, Liz seconded, passed.

Wendy Wieger reported on Area Two matters. There is still an opening for an Area Representative in Member Benefits. Duties include at trip to Springfield twice a year and reports via email. State officers do a wonderful job and they are fighting for us. State AMBA meetings provide good information. Janice Calvey has accepted the position.

A suggestion for increasing membership is to have coffees occasionally. Rich Chierico suggested a luncheon. We are still having a problem getting the list of newly retired teachers. Our next meeting is in room 190 at the Senior Center in Rolling Meadows, for just one month because of income tax assistance to seniors. Reinhard has created an invitation flyer to the June Luncheon. We discussed the cost to members and non-members. There was a loss of about \$1700 for the Christmas luncheon. Reinhard moved to charge \$29 and \$34 for the June luncheon. Bob Kaplan seconded and it passed. Bob Lyons will speak on the Fair Tax. Pritzker's Illinois budget proposal assumes it will pass. Bob Kaplan pointed out Pritzker has underfunded the TRIP program to balance the budget. At the AFSME conference, Karl-Heinz Gabbey heard that there will be new attacks on our pensions if the Fair Tax does not pass.

4. Unit 90 Schedule for 2020

An American in Paris will be seen on March 18, members will ride a bus to the theater. More information will be coming on the exact location and time.

Dates for July "Roaring Twenties" tour. On July 7,8 and 20, 21 the Crosstown Classic will be going on. Liz will ask about the week of July 13-17.

The Area 2 IRTA Conference has been scheduled for June 25 at Chandlers. Starts at 8:30 again. The first ten members of every unit get to attend for free.

Future Events are the New Members Breakfast on September 2 and the Legislative Breakfast on October 9. Our Holiday Luncheon will be Dec. 4.

5. Committee Reports

Janette Wanner started the committee reports with a membership report.

No report on the Foundation/Scholarship from Doris Haack, but Wendy Wieger announced the \$1500 scholarship for Area 2 is due March 7. They have also put up Excellence in Education Teacher Grants.

Rich Chierico proposed a day at the races at Arlington Race track in September.

Reinhard Taylor reported that the web site is running smoothly, using the new Association Logo, there are 6 members on the State Information Services Committee and will meet online using Zoom. The state organization is hiring Stripe to allow payment of membership fees online. To be continued...

Carolyn White discussed volunteer services. The need has increased. She will have an article in the newsletter with more information.

Jane McCauley reported that the newsletter is going out today.

Karl Heinz Gabbey talked about legislative activity. First up was the underfunding of the TRIP TRAIL health insurance by \$54 million. The committee that began in 2004 finally was able to talk to the administration. According to actuaries there will be an \$800 million surplus in TRIP/TRAIL.

Bob Lyons reported on TRS. The TRS return for 2019 was 13.4% - net of fees. Total TRS assets are \$54.2 billion, and 10.4% increase from \$49.1 billion. The 2019 benefits paid \$6.89 billion to retirees. 2020 benefits to be paid will top \$7 billion. Benefits grew by 4.2% from 2018, which was \$6.6 billion. The state started a buyout last summer for people who just retired. Why take the buyout? You fear you are going to die soon and you have no confidence what the TRS will continue. Remember the state has the program in order to save money. The state thought they would save \$194.5 million but the estimate is now \$204 million, plus an additional \$15 million, participation is 14.8% of new retirees. For inactive members it is about 7% of 14,599 members.

6. Miscellaneous

Meeting Schedule for 2020: 2/5, 3/4 (Newsletter), 4/1, 5/6 (Newsletter), 6/3, 8/4 (Newsletter), 9/2, 10/7 and 11/4 (Newsletter). **No meetings in July and December**