

ARTC Board of Directors' Meeting

December 7, 2010

Present: Mike Norman, Tom Singleton, Wayne Woodtke, Margo Chase-Wells, Carol Taylor, John Luning, Bonnie Reimann, Mike Ieronimo, Bob Lewandowski, Pat Yacovacci, Terry Barton, Judy Morganroth, Helen Bucior, John Kane, Rick Cassar, Cathy D'Agostino, Sandra Bove, Sandra Fitzgerald, Bob Scalzo, Rick Follman, Patty McDonnell, Lou Cubelli, Rick DeZenzo

President – Michael Norman

1. Regarding the ambassador program headed by Ellen Long – Mike will meet with Mary-Phil Guinan, Randy Collins & Diane Alverio to work out the details. Ambassadors will only deal with state senators.
2. Election results - Most of the democrats we endorsed won. Bravo to Napier, Merrill, and Malloy.
3. Florida groups – Michael goes there from December to February and will work with retirees there.
4. Health insurance benefits have changed. You can now get an annual physical if you're on Medicare. However, congress has a bill to present that will reduce the amounts paid to doctors treating Medicare patients, so some doctors may opt out of taking Medicare patients.
5. We had a very good turnout for the food drive. Margo will count it and deliver it all to a food shelter.
6. Through AMBA there is the MASA benefit. It will fly you home for a medical emergency.

Treasurer – Ed Messina was not present

Ed was away and report to Wayne Woodtke. As of 12/1/10 ARTC has \$325,352 in investments and \$39,000 in cash.

Executive Director – Wayne P. Woodtke

1. AMBA is adding a reverse mortgage benefit. There was a lot of discussion on the pros and cons but as ARTC does not “endorse” any product (by BOD decision ARTC only “recommends” products). **MOTION:** John Kane/Tom Singleton moved “To notify members that a reverse mortgage is available through AMBA and to recommend each member do their own due diligence.” Passed.
2. Only 1 affiliate has not paid their dues. Wayne will pursue the payment with the assistance of Michael Norman.
3. The CT Society of Association Executives (CSAE) is a group that Wayne wants to join. **The mission** of the CSAE is to advance and serve the profession of association and non-profit management. The annual dues are \$225. **MOTION:** John Kane/Helen Bucior moved we pay for this membership fee for Wayne. Passed.
4. Wayne reported the copier & printer in the office are dying. He found refurbished ones with extended guarantees that he would like to purchase. **MOTION:** John Kane/Bob Scalzo moved we spend up to \$2,000 for Wayne to replace the 2 machines. Passed.
5. *Life Line Screening* wants to advertise their product with ARTC. For every person who books their *Life Line Screenings*, using the ARTC priority code, ARTC receives a \$25 payment. It's \$135 for 4 tests. The pros and cons were discussed. **MOTION:** John Kane/Margo Chase-Wells moved that we allow this program to be advertised by ARTC in the newsletter and on our website. Passed. Rick Follman suggested we put a section on our webpage for “programs offered” and include a disclaimer. Wayne explained that the site already has the page with disclaimer. It's important to note that some of *Life Line Screening* tests are covered by our insurance.

Guest Speaker - Robert Rodriguez, CT Social Security Administration's Public Affairs Department, New Britain

After recommendations from Helen Bucior and Ellen Long, Rob Rodriguez was invited to present his program on Social Security with a PowerPoint presentation to include numerous handouts. While much of the info was not new it clarified numerous items and addressed the big issue of the WEP/GPO. No solutions were offered but Rob was very well received and many Affiliate presidents mentioned they were interested in having him speak to their affiliate membership.

Vice President – Tom Singleton

Tom passed out a flyer from AARP regarding their fight against the law to cut payments to doctors treating Medicare patients. Tom urged members to check the AARP website for lead-ins on sending emails/letter to legislators, especially Sen. Lieberman!!!

Public Relations – Patty McDonnell

1. Newsletter articles are due by 12/15/10 for publication of the ARTC Winter 2011 Newsletter edition to be sent in mid January 2011.
2. Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Legislative Office Building (LOB). Ellen Long has secured room 1D in the LOB from 9:30am – 11:30am and the Old Judiciary room for lunch and visitors from 11:30am – 2:00pm. As always, ARTC will pay ½ of affiliate bus rental fees, up to a max of \$500.
3. Margo Chase-Wells showed the badges designed by CraigKeith Company to be used by members on Lobby Day. They are 3” across with a CT silhouette and ARTC in bold letters, costing \$2 each. The Board recommended they be presented to the Legislative Committee for approval with 150 ordered. On Lobby Day we will ask for contributions for them.

Membership Committee – Bonnie Reimann / (Roz Schoonmaker was not present)

1. To date, ARTC has 9,838 members. The membership breaks down to 4,613 LIFE members and 5,225 annual members. We're still short 684 members from our 6/31/10 totals and 1,162 short of our 11,000 member goal for 6/31/11.
2. We've received an incredible 84% return on renewals using our new "invoice" format that Wayne brought back from his Chicago ASRTE conference in 2009. In addition, ARTC brought in 191 memberships from the fall newsletter and 9 from the luncheon. Our "2nd Notice" invoice, sent to 2,122 people, brought in 333 responses, or 16%. AMBA's mailing to "CT Newly Retired 2010" only resulted in 5 new memberships to date. It was decided to recommend that an ARTC Membership Committee mailing be sent to the 1,630 CT 2010 Newly Retired in early 2011. Wayne, Bonnie & Roz will work on the letter ASAP.
3. 47 HealthFlash Cards have been sold for a profit of \$329. ARTC has received \$1,401 in unsolicited donations, and \$1,563 has been received for the Glenn Moon scholarship fund.

Legislative Committee – Sandra Bove / Cathy D'Agostino

1. Sandra & Cathy mentioned their next meeting is on Monday, 12/13/10.
2. The committee will be setting goals for the coming year, i.e.: the funding of HIPA and repeal of WEP/GPO. They would like the Rob Rodriguez to present at a future committee meeting.
3. They acknowledged the great asset that our lobbyist and communications consultants are...and also thanked Ellen for her hard work in organizing Lobby Day.
4. Michael Norman encouraged all affiliates to start sending reps to both Membership & Legislative meetings.

Insurance Committee – Rick Follman / (Louise Follman was not present)

1. John Kane's original 40-40-20 plan has been scrubbed. He presented his new proposal which can be viewed in a document he has created and is available on the Southern Fairfield County RTA website at
2. The committee is concerned with the fact that TRB consists of only 2 teacher retirees, 3 active teachers, and 8 - 10 appointees from the governor, i.e.; businessmen. Rick feels they're not meeting as often and is concerned about private meetings that he believes are occurring "behind closed doors," indicating "they blow off our questions!" Roz Schoonmaker was not present to address her thoughts on these points. Ellen Long mentioned the inside scoop is that the TRB may be folded into the State level retirement board...not good for us.
3. John Kane pointed out that "by law the state had to ask" when it wanted to cease its 1/3 contribution to HIPA...Unfortunately, when they asked, the TRB said "Yes!" John made it clear he feels the state has no plans to repay it!
4. Rick indicated the committee is waiting for some important insurance related numbers from Jaime Stirling and will report on them when he can, reminding all that the deficit is about \$3.7 billion!
5. Rick mentioned that CT law requires 44 Medicare benefits in its insurance and that Medicare is not covering all of these! Per Rick, "The committee continues to investigate....We're having to come up with greater amounts of supplemental payments...This is a lot to fight for!"

Social Services Committee – John Luning

1. John will set a date to have a Social Services Committee meeting in early 2011 to discuss the results of the affiliates' volunteerism.

PAC – Rick cassar

1. The next PAC meeting is on Monday, 12/13/10.
2. Rick asked affiliates to try to keep track of what your local senator & congressman are doing so we'll know who to endorse when the time comes. Please send an email to Rick with any positives and negatives that you see.
3. PAC is discussing the dates for its next funding campaign which is estimated to incur mailing costs of approximately \$5,000.

Ambassador Program – Ellen Long

Ellen reported that she spoke to MaryPhil Guinan, Randy Collins & Mike Norman. She would like to launch this by Lobby Day which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2011. She'll get a list of senators associated with each affiliate and plans on scheduling a meeting of the ambassadors.

Old Business:

1. Carol Noble stated that the TRB has many transgressions which we don't do anything about it. It was suggested we attend meetings in mass and make them fully aware of our presence!
2. We should tell Gov-elect Malloy NOT to fold us in with other state employees. Diane Alverio should come up with a power play or we'll be out in the cold.
3. Michael Norman will write letters to Gov-elect Malloy, Lt. Gov-elect Wyman and the Malloy Transition team regarding the TRB issue along with a Congratulatory message reminding them that ARTC endorsed Mr. Malloy/Ms. Wyman team since the primaries! In addition, a Congratulatory letter will be sent to all ARTC endorsed winners. These letters will be reviewed by Diane Alverio before being delivered to the LOB mailroom by Wayne Woodtke.

New Business:

1. Carol Taylor was introduced. She is a member of the executive committee from Windham/Tolland.
2. Lou Cubelli mentioned that as time grows short at this meeting, the Insurance and legislative Committee information, always scheduled late on the agenda, gets “crunched!” It was suggested that these 2 committees get an early spot on the agenda in future.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Adjournment: 2:12pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Margo Chase-Wells/wpw