

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**MARCH 30, 2011**

Present: Wayne Woodtke, Margo Chase-Wells, Tom Singleton, Sandra Bove, Cathy D'Agostino, Pat Yacovacci, Ellen Long, Bob Scalzo, Rick Cassar, John Kane, Carol Noble, Sandra Fitzgerald, Bob Lewandowski, Ed Messina, Ken Sopelak, Rick Follman, Mike Ieronimo, Mary Gracyalny, Patty McDonnell, Terry Barton, Richard & Amy DeZenzo, Randy Collins, Lucy Sweeney

**Secretary Margo Chase-Wells**

Minutes were approved. (Pat Yacovacci/Patty McDonnell)

**Treasurer's Report Ed Messina**

The Finance Committee met with Pat Staffaroni, of Bank of America, and balanced the portfolio. It's up about \$25,000. The Huntley Fund, which makes up about 22% of our investments, has \$6,210 at their disposal so we're not making any more payments to them for a while. A handout with details was distributed. Terry asked for a more detailed fund investment document for the next meeting.

**Lobbyist Randy Collins**

1. Randy reviewed Governor Malloy's budget plan. We should expect \$1.5 billion in new taxes. He doesn't predict any payback to our pensions of monies it is owed, but Malloy has put the state contribution back into the budget.
2. Delta Dental will keep the cost containment language in the contract for ARTC.
3. A senate bill (SB1122) has been introduced that allows for union retirees to have their union dues taken right out of their pension checks. The board unanimously agreed and voted that **WE WOULD LIKE THINGS TO STAY AS THEY ARE, BUT IF THE BILL GOES THROUGH WE WANT TO BE INCLUDED TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD.**
4. Randy will meet with the chair of the TRB as a follow up to the letter we sent them.
5. Wayne will send an e-mail blast to the affiliate presidents about Lobby Day.

**Financial Officer Mary Gracyalny**

1. Mary presented a report with the breakdown of all operating expenses through the end of Feb. We are within our budget.
2. Board of Director's Conflict of Interest releases were handed out, signed and returned.
3. Copies of the auditor's report were distributed. Mary explained how to read it.  
Bob Scalzo/Terry Barton moved to accept the Financial Report. **PASSED.**

**Membership Committee (Wayne Woodtke in chair's absence)**

1. To date, we've received \$75,804 in donations from 2,323 contributors, netting about \$71,000 after mailing costs.
2. As of March 25 we have 10,080 members, 920 short of our goal. 10 are lifetime members with 74 new 2010 retirees to date.
3. A membership card option is being explored. It would include a plastic card and refrigerator magnet

that would be re-issued every 3-5 years, Wayne could print new ones in the office and total cost would be about \$7,397.

4. Another option is to use some of the new donation money to pay Diane Alverio (\$3-\$5,000) to work on a 3 year master marketing plan to recruit new members. A marketing plan would have to be developed with goals, sitting in on committees, budget coordination, etc. Discussion ensued as to whether to table the membership card idea and use the money for member recruitment instead.

**MOTION: Rick Follman/Bob Scalzo...The Board will pursue that we pursue the 3 year marketing plan with Diane Alverio instead of buying membership cards. PASSED**

**Executive Director            Wayne Woodtke**

1. All affiliates are paid up.
2. The audio recorder has been returned to Staples for full credit.
3. Wayne will work with Wayne Kensel on a video for our Facebook page.
4. Wayne attended the DAO (Direct Advocacy Organizing) conference in Chicago. They encourage training in this field and will pay for the training. Wayne will organize thru LEG Committee.

**Legislative Committee            Cathy D'Agostino & Sandra Bove**

1. Randy came to their last meeting and reviewed what our goals should be for next year.
2. Sandy & Cathy will be attending the NRTA National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. in early April. It will focus on pensions and social security. NRTA will pay for their expenses.
3. A bill is being introduced in the senate, SB582. It is sponsored by Sen. Saunders from VT and co-sponsored by Mr. Blumenthal. It deals with NOT raising the retirement age or reducing social security benefits or creating private retirement accounts.
4. Lobby Day is May 4.
  - A. We need numbers to show up to show support for maintaining our HIPA account.
  - B. We will print the booklet ourselves to save money. .
  - C. Sandra Fitzgerald said Hartford RTA has a free bus that makes 2 stops in commuter lots.
  - D. Sandra & Cathy talked to legislators who are really ignorant about the Social Security Fairness Act and the repeal of WEP/GPO, so we must review that on Lobby Day, too. It was suggested we have cards to hand out on that day. The girls have one with bullet points and Ken Sopelak said he has a great 1 page document that compares our retirement benefits with State employees'.
  - E. Everyone should make an appointment with their legislator for sometime between 11:00 – 12:00.

Nothing has been done in the Ambassador Program yet.

**ARTC-PAC                            Rick Cassar**

1. They will have a fundraiser after Lobby Day. They need funds! Walt Drozeck suggested asking people to leave money in their wills to PAC.
2. ARTC-PAC endorsed 8 out of the 9 candidates that were elected last fall.
3. Wayne Kensel suggested we contact state representatives' aides, as they are easier to get in touch with than the rep.
4. Al Cipriani died 2 weeks ago. Wayne will send a contribution to the Franciscan Carmelite Order in his memory. This was Al's favorite charity.

**MOTION: Bob Scalzo/Pat Yacovacci moved that we donate \$100. PASSED**

**Insurance Rick Follman**

1. Rick reported on the Feb. meeting with Joe Fields and Darlene Perez regarding HIPA. If the state does not pay in we may take a \$4 million dollar hit. The committee voted to focus on legislation and to communicate to the governor that the TRB needs that 1/3 contribution by the state in the 2012-2013 budget!
2. Rick reviewed information supplied by John Kane. They will ask him to make a formal presentation at the April 19 meeting. It concerns asking the TRB to increase subsidies to retirees over the age of 65 who have no social security.
3. The Sterling Benefits contract expires in June.

**MOTION: John Kane/ Rick Cassar moved that we write a letter to the TRB strongly encouraging them to renew their contract with Sterling Benefits. PASSED.**

**Public Relations Patty McDonnell**

1. The spring newsletter goes to the printer on Friday, April 1.
2. Ellen polled people and the majority wants the cookies for Lobby Day instead of the apples.
3. Margo has ordered (150) 3" pins that say ARTC. We will put out a "free will donation" basket in case people want to throw in some money for them. They will be keeping the pins.
4. Ellen suggested we use the ARTC stickers to put on any notes we leave legislators. Wayne said we are all out but will print some more.
5. The boys' choir from Avon Old Farms Prep School may possibly be singing for our entertainment at the May 17 spring luncheon. We are waiting for confirmation, as the boys have to miss classes for this. We don't have a speaker yet, but it's Mark Twain month and Patty was hoping to find something along that line. John Luning knows someone who impersonates Mark Twain.

**Social Services John Luning**

John shared his successful experiences and ideas as president of the Litchfield county organization. This segued into how we can make ARTC more visible. He distributed a document that listed many suggestions for attaching ourselves to more high profile community service organizations. He suggested we try to be diverse in affiliating with groups of different ages and demographics. And he explained how he merged social service with outreach.

**Scholarship Committee Terry Barton**

Next week the committee begins reviewing the applications for scholarship. This year 37 students downloaded the app from the website. We may eventually eliminate mailing paper copies to individual schools. The committee will meet May 3 and May 5 at the UAW. Winners will be announced at the May 17 luncheon meeting.

**President Tom Singleton (for Michael Norman)**

1. Moe Nierenstein nominations are due May 1. They are for outstanding contributions to this group as well as to the community. Send them to Wayne.
2. Mike Norman met with both east coast and west coast retirees down in Florida. Lucy Sweeney reported from friends that they had attended and loved it.

3. Mike Norman felt we should show our solidarity with Wisconsin teachers who are upset about having to pay in 3% to their health insurance – up from 0%. The board agreed to write a letter.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Patty reported that our old compatriot, Patrick McGloin, former Media Consultant, reported that “Watermark at 3030 Park Avenue,” a retirement/assisted living facility in Bridgeport wants to establish a partnership with ARTC. Wayne and Patty visited the impressive luxury facility with pool, fitness area, lecture hall, etc. They offer a lecture series for \$25 that is open to the public (as is their gym for a fee). They have offered to host our next Executive Committee meeting there that will include lunch, a tour and a power point presentation. (We accepted!) The facility offers 3 levels of assisted living with seamless transition from 1 to another if your circumstances change.

They are also offering discounts for ARTC members; \$5,000 off the buy-in, and \$5,000 off a “Moving Crew” service when you move in. In addition, it costs about \$2,700 month. Deals are available that allow an estate to receive back as much as 90% of the investment upon death. They are also offering to donate \$2,500 to our scholarship fund.

Wayne reported the federal Mileage Reimbursement was raised to \$ .51 cents / mile. The discussion resulted in a **MOTION - Bob Scalzo/John Kane to keep the ARTC reimbursement at \$ .50 per mile. PASSED**

Margo invited anyone on the board to attend the Middlesex RTA’s April 26 spring luncheon at Dock & Dine in Old Saybrook, featuring a dynamic, professional, international demographer as the keynote speaker. Details are listed in her newsletter article.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 27, 2011 (Stay Tuned...May be cancelled with Tuesday, June 7 being next on the calendar.)

**Adjourned:** 1:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted;  
Margo Chase-Wells/wpw