

# Board of Directors' Minutes

## September 21, 2011

Present: Mike Norman, Tom Singleton, Margo Chase-Wells, Wayne Woodtke, Ed Messina, Patty McDonnell, Ellen Long, John Kane, Rick Follman, Sandra Bove, Cathy D'Agostino, Bonnie Reimann, Roz Schoonmaker, Carol Noble, Terry Barton, John Luning, Barbara Kmetz, Bob Lewandowski, Rich DeZenzo, Lou Cubelli, Sandy Fitzgerald, Lucy Sweeney, Jane Aarnio, Bob Scalzo, Mike Ieronimo, Ken Sopolak, Carol Taylor, Mary Gracyalny, Randy Collins, Diane Alverio, Rod Carveth

Michael Norman welcomed 2 new affiliate presidents; Barbara Kmetz from Greater Bridgeport and Jane Aarnio from New London

### **Minutes - Margo Chase-Wells:**

Minutes from June 7, 2011 were accepted with 1 change.

### **Diane Alverio & Dr. Rod Carveth** (research specialist/professor/author)

Both reviewed the 3 year marketing plan designed for ARTC to increase membership/ARTC Brand name. Its goal is to increase our membership as well as the profile of ARTC. The next year is dedicated to planning, research and collecting data. Her final plan will be presented to the ARTC Board in June 2012. The following 3 years (FY2013- FY2015) are for implementing the changes. They'll be meeting with the membership committee and sending out surveys, using focus groups, and communicating via e-mail to non-members AND members to gather data. Affiliate presidents should tell their members to be watching for a survey in November, and to please FILL IT OUT!

### **President's Report – Michael Norman:**

1. Grand Circle Travel's (GCT) program is in place. They're now offering 4 different packages and there is a link on our website to access these. (When 10 members sign up, the 11<sup>th</sup> trip is free...still to be decided is how ARTC offers this free trip...some ideas were to auction it at luncheon, drawing (sell chances) at luncheon, funds to be credited to ARTC, etc.). It was decided that the free trip savings will be divided amongst all 11 people. They advertise in our newsletter and will also have a vendor's booth at the fall luncheon.
2. Michael & Wayne Woodtke, ARTC Executive Director, will travel to the AMBA conference in Austin, Texas (paid for by AMBA) to meet with them to get updated on their program and to see why their MASA feature is not competitively priced.
3. The Fall luncheon is all set for October 18<sup>th</sup>. Speakers are Megan Hookey, VP of NRTA:AARP and Brenda Kelley, State Director, AARP CT to answer questions developed by our Legislative Co-Chairs to include social security.

### **Roz Schoonmaker on TRB news:**

1. Roz is not happy with the new people appointed to the TRB. One is from the Office of Policy Management, another is a lawyer and they are both too frugal. We need someone who knows federal tax law.
2. In addition, the attorney general did not follow long established procedure that once you're on the TRB you remain until the end of your term. One TRB member (Bill Murray) was an active teacher who retired mid-term and was asked to leave the TRB due to this fact. Randy Collins explained that as CT has a new Governor the decision was made to uphold original policies...not uncommon for new administrations.
3. Open spots created by vacancies are not well publicized and for 2 open spots only 1 person applied.
4. The TRB is being sued because 2 people from the same "unit" were appointed (both CEA) and this is against the rules, but the interpretation of "unit" is nebulous. Randy Collins, ARTC Lobbyist, will research to find the actual bill and its source.

### **Vice President's Report – Tom Singleton:**

Tom and his ad hoc committee have completed their evaluation of our executive director, Wayne Woodtke, and he passed with flying colors. They would like to complete the evaluation by March or April next year. Wayne suggested that in 2012, perhaps instead of a raise we might consider a retirement plan. A 3% raise was suggested for this year.

- ❖ Michael Ieronimo/Lou Cubelli **MOVED** that we present Wayne with a 3% raise retroactive to July 2011. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Treasurer's Report – Ed Messina:**

Ed distributed a financial report that showed cash, transfers, and gains & losses of the total portfolio. As of Sept 21, 2011 we have \$326,718 of which 22% belongs to the Huntley Fund (appx. \$75,000).

### **Legislative Report – Sandra Bove & Cathy D'Agostino:**

1. The committee tried to get Denise Napier and other panel guests to speak at the fall luncheon but they weren't available. They did give her several questions to answer about supporting the WEP/GPO and COLA.
2. Joe Fields was asked in the spring for a projected model on HIPA (Health Insurance Premium Account) but he has not acted on this request.
3. We'd like AARP to change their position and start supporting us on our WEP/GPO repeal. They told us we have to send a request to their Policy Making Committee. Affiliates were asked to e-mail them. You can go on [www.ssfairness.com](http://www.ssfairness.com) to request this policy change and to also tell your sad personal story.
4. There are 2 new co-chairs for PAC: Bob Blake and Jack Stasio.

### **Insurance Report – Rick Follman:**

1. Six years ago a trust was formed in the state called SUSTINET to pay for health insurance for non and under insured people in CT. Governor Malloy did not renew this program. The Lt. Governor has it in committee right now. You can learn more by going on [www.uchf.org](http://www.uchf.org)
2. The TRB has confronted Joe Fields about not getting the projections we asked for last spring. He blew us off saying he's too busy. Denise Napier was given a list of questions we'd like answered (see Legislative Report, item1.) including the problem with Joe Fields.
3. The cost for purchasing health insurance from the TRB (Sterling Benefits) for those who qualify for social security is \$124/month for medical and Rx, \$49 for dental and \$7 for vision, totaling \$180/month. The TRB puts in another \$180 and the state puts in the last \$180. Malloy has put about \$33 million into our account.
4. If you retired after January 1, 2001 you may only receive your pension checks via electronic transfer.
5. You may continue collecting your spouse's retirement check after they pass away unless you remarry before the age of 60.

### **Financial Director's Report- Mary Gracyalny:**

1. In FY2011 ARTC had 10 new lifetime members and although the number of annual dues-paying members is down, Mary reports that we have a \$21,124 surplus. We overestimated by \$10,000 on a few budget items and underestimated our revenue by about \$10,000. Most committees came in under budget. The 2009 – 2010 year brought in \$53,000 in donations, and the 2010-2011 year brought in \$83,000.
2. We incurred a big cost last year when we got slapped with the printing costs for the Lobby Day booklets. John Kane suggested it be sent out electronically.

- ❖ John Kane/Mike Ieronimo **MOVED** we accept Mary's report. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Mary asked board members to sign the “Conflict of Interest” statement.

### **Executive Director’s Report – Wayne Woodtke**

1. Wayne has the newly retired CT teachers list and will send it to affiliate presidents the week of September 26<sup>th</sup>.
2. We bought a whole new computer system (previously approved at 6/7/11 BOD meeting) for \$2,700 when the estimate had been \$5,000! A savings of \$2,300!
3. Thank you notes to us were received from Ellen Long and Sylvia Nirenstein.
4. Wayne handed out registration forms for the ARTC fall luncheon.
5. Channel 3 WFSB has been the station we use for foul weather cancelations. They have changed their policy and will only post on their website if the group has less than 200 employees...Wayne will report that we have over 10,000 people who may need to know about cancellations...He will report results as soon as possible.
6. Wayne distributed an “Event Timeline” that gives the approximate month/month timeframe required in the planning of all ARTC events, (newsletters, luncheons, mailings, etc.) requiring planning time. He asked that the BODs review and get back to him if they feel he missed something.

### **Public Relations Report – Patty McDonnell:**

1. All affiliates should send their local newsletters to Wayne so he can post them on the website.
2. The new newsletter is out and has a lot of good stuff in it including a nice letter from one of our scholarship winners. Diane Alverio consulted.
3. Fall luncheon news: There will be a silent auction run by Dee Padwater. Vendors coming to the luncheon are: African jewelry lady, Grand Circle Travel, Sterling Benefits, and AMBA. Also the pasta is back in the menu for the dinner.
4. NRTA is the educational part of AARP. This summer Mike Norman and Patty McDonnell both taught their own “Over 55” safe drivers’ courses. It was free to retired teachers for July & August only. The course is running again and will be free to Veterans for the month of November. And if you sign up online you get a \$20 gift card.
5. We’ve been working with Watermark. They would like to do more public relations with us and are encouraging teachers to attend their events. Patty will ask them to be a vendor at the fall luncheon.

### **Membership Report – Bonnie Reimann & Roz Schoonmaker:**

1. The Social Services Committee would like to merge with the Membership Committee since their goals are the same; promoting the name of ARTC via volunteerism to help stimulate membership. John Luning, Social Services Committee chair, has been asked to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> co-chair of the Membership Committee. His decision is pending. We need to associate ourselves with big established organizations to get the free PR (like Arbor Day, ASPCA, Red Cross blood banks and Financial Literacy seminars)
  - ❖ Margo Chase-Wells/Roz Schoonmaker **MOVED** that the membership committee absorb the social services committee. **PASSED with 2 abstentions.**
2. Only 2 affiliate has not paid their dues, Litchfield Co. & So. Fairfield Co. Bonnie has generic business cards for us. The committee will be planning another appeal mailing asking for donations. Wayne Woodtke reported on our regular membership form there is a spot to check to contribute to either or both the Glenn Moon Scholarship fund or ARTC.
3. Tom Singleton reported there were only 5 affiliate representatives at the last meeting. He suggested we get an rep from every affiliate to attend. The time for these meetings has been standardized to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of every month at 12:00.

### Lobbyist - Randy Collins:

Randy suggested we be more active on Facebook. We need someone to monitor this. Michael Norman asked Carol Taylor, Windham-Tolland VP, to take on this job. Her decision is pending.

We have 2 concerns with TRB:

- 1) How they elected their chairmen (they usually appoint someone, but this year Governor Malloy appointed someone. Turns out this is the way it's actually supposed to be done.
- 2) The make-up of the board (see "Roz and TRB news"). In order to enforce the "stay on the board till the end of your term" rule we have to change the wording. How much effort do we want to put into changing this law?

### New Business:

1. Roz Schoonmaker announced she needs recommendations for the Mo Nirenstein award for the spring – someone who is active and big in volunteerism.
2. Cathy D'Agostino & Sandra Bove asked if the Legislative Committee could be relieved of the duty of fronting the money/responsibility for the auctions at our luncheons
  - ❖ Sandra Bove/Margo Chase-Wells **MOVED** that the Board of Directors be responsible for payment and overseeing of the auctions. **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
3. Rick Follman asked if it would be good public relations to invite Julie Kusher, Region 9 UAW Director, to speak at our fall luncheon since we get such a good deal from them. Wayne Woodtke reported she has been invited, along with her assistant, Joelyn Leon, to our luncheon. This idea was rejected as it was suggested we be VERY careful with even the appearance of affiliating ourselves with the UAW.

**Next BOD Meeting: November 29, 2011 at the UAW – 10:00am – 2:00pm**

Adjournment was at 2:00pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Margo Chase-Wells/wpw