

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
APRIL 8, 2010**

Present: Mike Norman, Wayne Woodtke, Margo Chase-Wells, Tom Singleton, Cathy D'Agostino, Sandra Bove, Rick Follman, John Luning, Mike Ieronimo, Bonnie Reimann, Mary Gracyalny, Ed Messina, Ellen Long, Helen Bucior, John Kane, Roz Schoonmaker, Sandra Fitzgerald, Trena Caron, Bob Scalzo, Ken Sopelak, Rick Cassar, Terry Barton, Dan Coughlin, Lou Cubelli, Richard DeZeno, Bob Lewandoski, Lucy Sweeney

Minutes from December 12, 2009 meeting were accepted with 1 correction.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Michael Norman

- Michael would like to start a “Legislative Ambassador” program where affiliate members stay in close contact with their state senator/representative and familiarize them with our agenda. Ellen Long will chair this program and get in touch with each affiliate president. Wayne suggested we get Diane Alverio involved.
- Michael & Wayne would like to establish an affiliate in Florida. Wayne created a map of Florida showing the 724 ARTC members with known addresses there. Counties would be combined and eventually he'd like one on each coast. Advantages are:
 - 1.) More representation in FL to contact their CT legislators.
 - 2.) Possible increase in ARTC member numbers.
 - 3.) Provides social interaction opportunities.

MOTION was made to send a letter with enclosed pre-paid postcard to survey the interest level. APPROVED: 14-8.

- Michael suggested offering a 1 year free membership to ARTC if you join through AMBA. Wayne suggested ABA reps be invited to our June BOD meeting to discuss our mutual goals before they send out next year's letter. Bonnie doesn't want to sacrifice the membership money we'll lose. ***Discussion was TABLED.***
- ***MOTION was made and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to accept Naugatuck as a new affiliate.*** Wayne will secure required documentation for files.
- A suggestion to host a cocktail party for candidates we're endorsing was defeated based on the number of political functions already attended by ARTC members.
- The speakers for the May 18th Spring Luncheon were supposed to be the Republican gubernatorial candidates but there were too many so the speaker will now be Darlene Perez from the TRB. Wayne suggested we present her with questions formulated by the legislative committee in advance. There will also be a teacup and silent auction run by Dee Padwater. Committee reports for the tables are due May 1. Wayne has a survey that needs to be completed so it will be done *by everyone at the same time*. After much discussion it was agreed to let the Executive Committee make up the agenda for that day.
- Roz Schoonmaker has not had any nominations for the Mo Nierenstein volunteer award. Submission deadline is April 30th.
- CEA-R is asking members to renew membership by making their checks payable to “CARE” – (CT Assoc. of Retired Educators/Teachers.) They sent out a mailing regarding a luncheon that John Luning received. John found out that the request is not really a group name change but rather a process change only. Checks were coming in payable to the office secretary and she requested that “CARE” be written. Michael feels this new name is too similar to our name. ***MOTION was made and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY that we a lawyer send a letter to them/ have Michael speak to them stating this and asking that they stop using this acronym.***

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Patty McDonnell

- Wayne Woodtke read Patty McDonnell's report (she's away) regarding the search for a new venue for luncheon meetings. She has checked out places in Milford, Orange and Hamden and has plans to check Wallingford and Cromwell. No venue has offered a significant price reduction although the Aqua Turf is reducing their price by \$1 eliminating the pasta course. **MOTION made and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to have her continue her search.**

PRESIDENT-ELECT - Tom Singleton

- Tom reported on the search for new real estate for possible ARTC office/meeting site. The ad hoc committee for this purpose has been disbanded as we see no immediate need to find a new place. Ed Messina has a realtor and has asked her to put this search on hold.

LOBBY DAY - Ellen Long

- Ellen asked for a "show-of-hands" on who was attending Lobby Day = 23. Also, Sandra Fitzgerald indicated 30 were scheduled to come via bus from Hartford area in addition to quite a few from Fairfield. So far...preliminary counts show a total of 105. Ellen explained the agenda for the day:
 - Presentation and Q & A by Randy Collins
 - Visits with legislators
 - Lunch in the Old Judiciary Room of the State Capitol Building.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ed Messina

- We have ~\$330,000 in our portfolio. We've rebalanced the whole portfolio selling 4 stocks and buying 10 others.
- Ed explained he felt the Harriett Huntley Fund had more funds in it than monthly payouts require. Based on this he had stopped all transfers / payouts. After researching the process the transfers remain stopped but payouts have resumed. **MOTION made / APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the report.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Wayne Woodtke

- The Spring Newsletter is at the printers and will be in the mail by April 16th. We have completed the "Non-Profit Bulk Mailing Permit" application with USPS with approval pending. Cost was a one-time new application fee of \$185 plus the recurring yearly fee of \$185 for a total of \$370. Postage prices will go from \$0.44 to ~\$0.16.5 per letter. Wayne asked that AT LEAST everyone on the Board of Directors accept the newsletter exclusively online to save more money. **NO DECISION WAS MADE.**
- Wayne reported he would like to attend the ASRTE (Association of State Retired Teacher Executives) conference in St. Louis, MO from August 3 - 5. He'll ask for funds at the June BOD meeting. **MOTION made / APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the report.**

FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT - Mary Gracyalny

- All Board of Director members are required, due to new "Non-Profit" tax filing requirements, to:
 - Complete/sign a "Conflict of Interest" document. (Attending members were given the document to read/sign/return at the meeting. Missing members will receive via mail.)
 - Be aware of the current "Record Retention" policy. (See handout.)
 - Adopt a "Whistleblower Policy" allowing anyone to report a suspicion of illegal activity without fear of retribution. (See handout.)
- Mary passed out the financial statement and reported that we're not going to meet our projected revenue or expenses. She predicts a \$10,000 – \$15,000 short term deficit. The financial committee says we have enough to cover this but we'll have to borrow from our cash reserves for about 2 months until the membership money starts coming in for 2011 renewals. **MOTION made / APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to accept the report.**

LEGISLATIVE REPORT - Cathy D'Agostino & Sandra Bove

- Cathy & Sandra reiterated the importance of Lobby Day since we don't have a union, and advised us to focus on ONE issue – our unfunded HIPA. They met with the TRB and were told they (the TRB) are NOT lobbyists and are not advocates for us. (See Roz Schoonmaker's explanation below.) Also, TRB staff may lose their jobs if they get absorbed by the state employees group.
- Diane Alverio arranged for Cathy & Sandy to appear on the Tom Monahan TV show, "CT Newsmakers" in March – very successful!
- There was a Texas Retired Teachers Association / ASRTE sponsored WEP/GPO Summit in Washington, DC in March. ARTC reps, Frank Cooper & Rhoda Dix, of our Southern Fairfield County Affiliate, reported that they were told that since this affects so few people, it will probably never be addressed.
- Senate Bill #393, section 5, will allow dentists to charge any amount they want for services rendered after individuals have used their deductible, for services not listed in our contract (instead of the usual "fair and reasonable amount.")

TRB REPORT - Roz Schoonmacker

- Roz explained that the TRB staff, by law, is not allowed to lobby for us. They can only write legislation to present to legislators.
- Roz expounded the dedication and service of Darlene Perez.
- Roz also told us that Joe Fields is considered to be one of the highest regarded Insurance experts in the USA. CT Atty. Gen. Blumenthal has given authorization for the TRB to take Joe Fields' fee out of the HIPA fund. It is in Appropriations now.
- Roz's opinion is that we should not merge with the retired state employees because we will be lost among so large a group and any special needs we have as teachers will be ignored.

MEMBERSHIP - (Bonnie Reimann & Roz Schoonmaker

- Current membership is 10,445. The spring newsletter will be asking for membership renewals & donations.
- We'll be sending an "invoice" out to non-responders – WITHOUT ANY DEALS!
- It is a recommendation of the Membership Committee that "Annual Member Dues" for those retired after 1987, be increased from \$35 to \$40. This will raise about \$16,000. **MOTION was made / APPROVED to increase the dues.**
- The next focus will be on recruiting new retirees for membership. Diane Alverio will be asked for her help.
- The committee will invite Rick Billeaud (AMBA rep) to attend a meeting. We need to work in conjunction with AMBA on their mailing to new retirees.
- Generic ARTC business cards are being ordered for all committee members (Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Membership, Legislative, Insurance, etc.) to distribute to potential members.

LOBBYIST - Randy Collins

- Final touches are being made on the Lobby Day packet that will be distributed on April 14.
- Randy has a 45 minute Power Point designed to inform the attendees at Lobby Day and to explain just what to say to your particular legislator.
- There are 151 state reps and 36 senators' positions up for grabs.
- He explained the policies and laws regarding political contributions.

INSURANCE REPORT - Rick Follman

- Rick reported that the consultant fee for re-hiring Joe Fields is proposed to be taken from our HIPA fund.
- The retirement division of state employees has 88 on staff. TRB has 24.
- The \$61 million that the state did not/will not contribute during the 2010 thru 2011 budget years is not recoverable and is estimated to cost us \$14 million in interest/dividends. He suggested since that's "water over the dam," we focus on getting them to contribute their fair share to the 2012 – 2013 budget years.
- Rick has a subcommittee looking into John Kane's "40-40-20" proposal.
- Darlene Perez has made no mention of getting our COLA back in 2012.

PAC REPORT - Rick Cassar

- Diane Alverio helped design the PAC mailing asking for donations and sent to the 4,200 annual members. Over \$10,000 was raised! It included a return envelope and a Lobby Day flyer.
- Six people are being sent to the Democratic fundraising Jackson-Jefferson-Bailey dinner. They tried to pick folks representing different districts.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wayne Woodtke brought it to the Board's attention that Bob Madore, Director of UAW Region 9, and our primary contact in securing our Farmington office and meeting site, is retiring. Wayne was sent an invitation to his retirement party at \$75 a head or \$750/table. Michael and Wayne think it would be very wise for us to buy a table for \$750 and attend. ***MOTION was made / APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to appropriate \$750 for 10 Executive Committee members to attend.***
- John Kane will be making a presentation of his "40-40-20" proposal to the Legislative Committee.
- Ken Sopelak wanted to know if the company soliciting his members (AMBA) is actually endorsed by ARTC. He was informed about AMBA's process and Wayne mentioned he has had discussion with AMBA telling them they MUST inform the ARTC office when AMBA reps are in the area. This would allow an email to be sent to Affiliate Presidents informing them that they may receive messages/inquires from local members.

NOTE: AMBA only pays calls on people who have inquired into their services and appointments are supposed to be pre-scheduled. If you are informed that a member received a call or visit without asking for one, please let Wayne know.

- Various problems with CAREMARK were discussed. They didn't get a good report card from Wall St. yet they are ranked equal to MEDCO by consumer reports. The drug "Diavan" is still not covered. Rick Follman said he will tell Darlene Perez to look into this.

ADJOURNED @ 1:55 pm

Respectfully submitted:
Margo Chase-Wells
Secretary