

ARTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 2, 2009
UAW Hall

Attendance:	Tom Singleton	Helen Bucior	Ed Messina
	Dan Coughlin	Sandra Bove	Trenda Caron
	Richard Follman	Mary Gracyalny	Carol Noble
	Lou Cubelli	Michael Ieronimo	John Kane
	John Luning	Cathy D'Agostino	Michael Norman
	Bonnie Reimann	Judy Morganroth	Richard DeZenzo
	Robert Scalzo	Roz Schoonmaker	Michael Ward
	Peter Zikowitch	Rick Cassar	Sandra Fitzgerald
	Ken Sopolak	Bob Lewandoski	

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Michael Norman at 10:05 a.m.

1. President's Report

Pres. Norman stated that he had several items to report on and discuss.

- a) The meeting with the New England Social Security group is scheduled for June 17th.
- b) Gov. Rell is proposing to cut the State contribution to the TRB health insurance plan. 17,000 retired teachers would be affected by this cut. He asked the Board encourage ARTC members to write letters or make phone calls to their legislators.
- c) Pres. Norman stated that the ARTC headquarters office needed additional hours of staff help. After discussion, John Kane moved, seconded by John Luning, to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore the need for additional help. The motion passed unanimously. Pres. Norman asked Pres.-elect Tom Singleton to chair a committee and he appointed Helen Bucior, Carol Noble, and Bob Lewandowski to serve on the committee.
- d) Pres. Norman reported that after review by two attorneys, the AMBA contract was signed. When AMBA receives the ARTC mailing lists, a mailing will go out to all members with information on the MASA program.
- e) Pres. Norman reported that Ed Messina and his committee have met to work on revitalizing the New Haven County affiliate. In the last 5 years 1,600 – 1,800 teachers from NHC have retired. A luncheon is being planned for the second week of July. Retirees from Hamden and New Haven will be invited and asked to help work with ARTC to revitalize the NHC group.
- f) Pres. Norman stated that Pat McDonnell has been researching possible new and less expensive sites for the semi-annual ARTC luncheons. She will report to the Board at its September meeting.
- g) Pres. Norman proposed that Morris Nirenstein, past president of ARTC, be honored by ARTC. Mo changed the organization to be more politically involved and less socially oriented. After discussion by the Board, John Kane, moved, seconded by Roz Schooner, that ARTC create an award in Mo Nirenstein's name to be given to a worker for retired teachers (?). The motion was passed unanimously.

- h) Pres. Norman handed out copies of the newly drafted agreement for the Publicist position. After discussion and editing by the Board, John Kane moved, seconded by Roz Schoonmaker, to accept the agreement as amended and pass it on to the Executive Committee to use to hire a publicist.

2. Report of the Secretary

Due to the absence of the Secretary, the approval of the April 7, 2009 Board meeting minutes was deferred until the September meeting.

3. Report of the President-elect

No report

4. Report of the Financial Secretary

Financial Secretary, Ed Messina, reported that the financial market is showing some improvement since March. He distributed a handout showing the value of the ARTC portfolio since the beginning of the fiscal year. He stated that ARTC is continuing to use a conservative investment approach.

5. Report of the Public Relations Officer

No report

6. Report of the Financial Officer

Mary Gracyalny reviewed the financial statements as of 5/31/09. She stated that the revenues and expenses are within the budget guidelines through eleven months of the fiscal year. She then handed out the draft FY2010 budget, reviewed it in detail, and answered several questions from the Board members. After discussion and thanks to Mary for all her hard work, Michael Ward moved, seconded by Bob Scalzo, to accept the proposed FY2010 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Report of the Publicist – no report

8. Report of the Lobbyist – no report

9. Committee Reports:

- a) **Membership** – Bonnie Reimann, membership co-chair, reported that the current membership count is 10,538 and there have been 32 new life members added this year. She also stated that the membership committee is recommending the following dues amounts for FY2010:

\$35	Annual
40	Affiliate
20	Associate
10	Prior to 1987
500	LIFE

Mike Ward moved, seconded by Sandy Bove to approve this dues schedule. The motion passed with 4 nay votes and 2 abstentions.

Bonnie also reported that the committee recommends that each affiliate include information on ARTC with their local mailing and ARTC will reimburse the affiliate for the cost of the postage.

b) Insurance

Rick Follman, co-chair of the Insurance Committee, reported that Darlene Perez from the TRB attended the April 21, 2009 committee meeting along with two of her senior staff members. The TRB currently has 29 staff members but will lose more employees to the new state early retirement offer.

Ms. Perez stated that the TRB pension and insurance benefits are protected by state law and contracts and will not be affected by the current state of the economy. She personally contacted retired teachers eligible to receive the \$220 monthly insurance subsidy and there are now 982 retired teachers receiving this amount. There are fewer teachers retiring in 2009, about 300 less than in previous years.

c) Legislative

Sandy Bove, Legislative Co-chair reported that there was nothing new on the state budget which is awaiting legislative action. CT and New England Social Security meetings are scheduled for June. Postal workers are now involved in the repeal movement.

d) Program – no report

e) Scholarship –

Judy Morganroth reported that for FY2010 there will be one \$2,000 four year and three \$1,500 one year scholarships given.

f) Social Services -

John Luning, chair, suggested that ARTC needs to involve members in projects and should use the newsletter as a means of communications with the members. He has been receiving lists of volunteer activities and good deeds by members.

g) ARTC PAC –

Rick Cassar, chair, reported that 9 ARTC members attended the JJ Bailey dinner, John Kane represented ARTC at the Urban league banquet, Walter Drozeck attended the GOP Lincoln Dinner, and four members played in the UAW golf tournament.

10. Old Business – none

11. New Business – Pres. Norman introduced the new local presidents Ken Sopolak/West Hartford and Sandra Fitzgerald/Hartford County.

Bonnie Reimann moved, seconded by Sandy Bove, to hold a modified teacup auction at the spring 2010 ARTC luncheon. Dee Padwater and her committee will sponsor the event and ARTC will provide \$500 of seed money. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.